KINDAIMAHJONG COMICS

aki

アキ

大崎　充

協力＝二階堂亜樹

Comic by Mitsuru Osaki
Cooperation by Aki Nikaido

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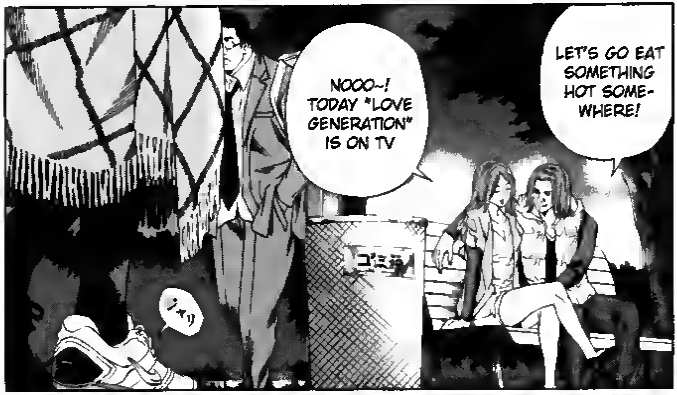
大崎充

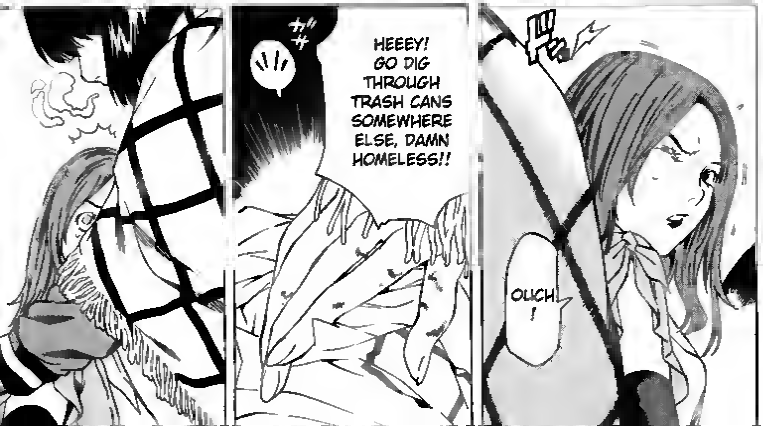
協力　二階堂亜樹

Cont. by Mitsuru Osaki

Cooperation by Aki Nikaido

-BUT, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S THIS COLD IN MAY

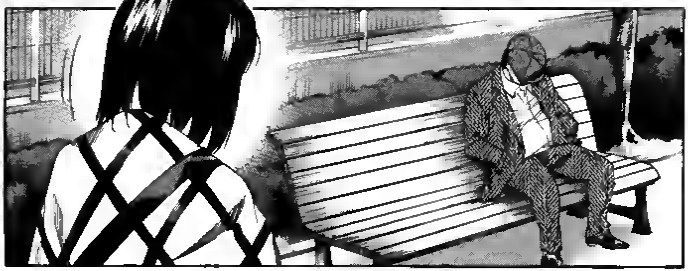

NOOO~! TODAY "LOVE GENERATION" IS ON TV
LET'S GO EAT SOMETHING HOT SOME-WHERE!
ゴミ箱
ﾌﾞﾂﾌﾞﾂ

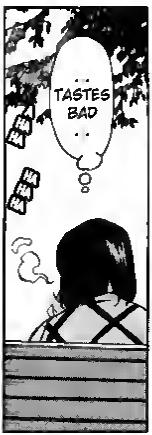

ﾅﾅﾅ
HEEEY! GO DIG THROUGH TRASH CANS SOMEWHERE ELSE, DAMN HOMELESS!!
ﾄﾞﾝ
OUCH!

...HALF OF IT IS LEFT...
A GIRL
...!?

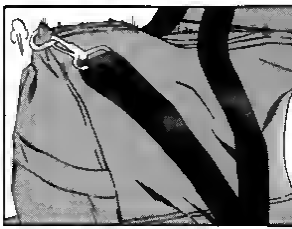
Episode: 9 Homesickness and Reality

May of 1997
-Tokyo, Machida-




...TASTES BAD...

+hikkx+



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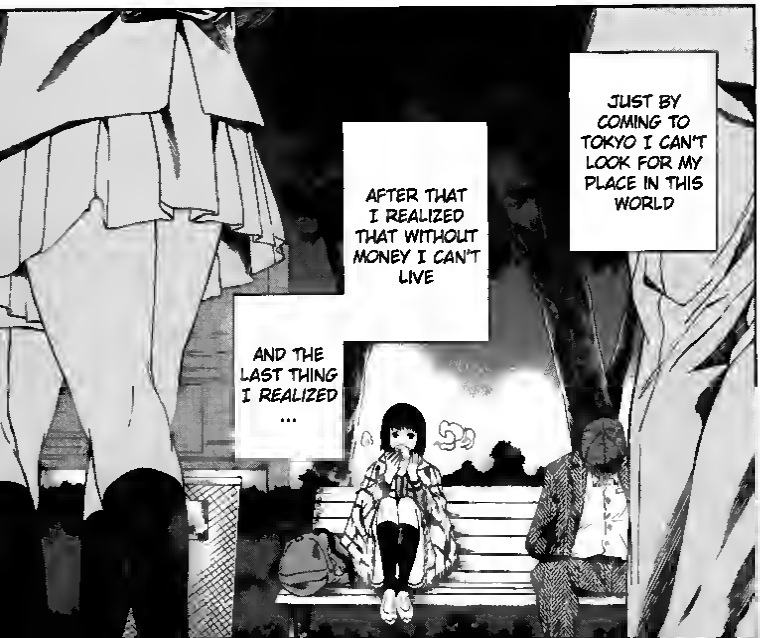
TWO MONTHS SINCE I CAME TO TOKYO...
"SHI-VER"
I REALIZED IT IN THE FIRST WEEK...


JUST BY COMING TO TOKYO I CAN'T LOOK FOR MY PLACE IN THIS WORLD
AFTER THAT I REALIZED THAT WITHOUT MONEY I CAN'T LIVE
AND THE LAST THING I REALIZED ...

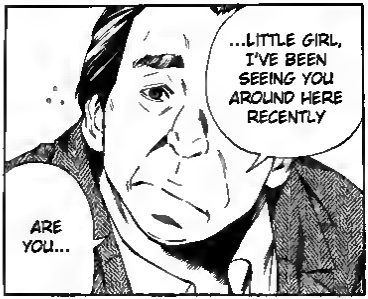
IT'S SOME-THING I LEARNED ONCE I WENT OUT INTO THE REAL WORLD...
A MIDDLE SCHOOL GRADUATE REALLY WON'T GET EMPLOYED ANYWHERE

ACH OOO !!

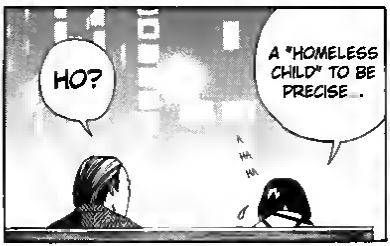
A...
A...

HO?
PAPER, PAPER...
AH- DID I CATCH A COLD?
EH, PAPER...
HEY LITTLE GIRL, COULD YOU GIVE ME SOME PAPER?
PAPER... A TISSUE?
CAN'T HELP HIM... I ONLY GOT MY MAHJONG NOTEBOOK
THIS NOTEBOOK WILL DO, I JUST NEED ONE SHEET
AH... EH!?
RIP
HOOO NNN KKK
SNIFF
SNIFF

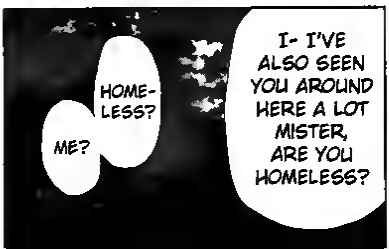
LITTLE GIRL, DID YOU WRITE THIS?
YEAH ... (CRY)
.....


...LITTLE GIRL, I'VE BEEN SEEING YOU AROUND HERE RECENTLY
ARE YOU...

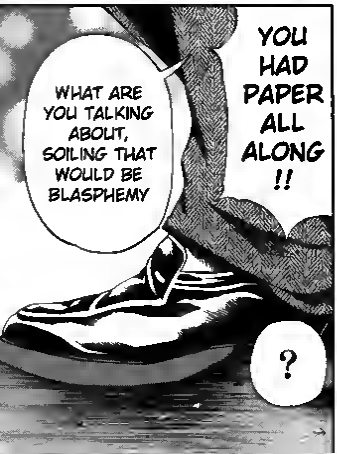
DON'T NEED IT


HO?
A "HOMELESS CHILD" TO BE PRECISE..
AHHH

A RUN-AWAY?
.....


I- I'VE ALSO SEEN YOU AROUND HERE A LOT MISTER, ARE YOU HOMELESS?
HOME-LESS?
ME?

MAGAZINE: KINDAI MAHJONG - ORIGINAL

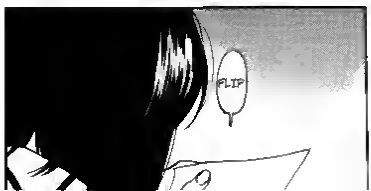


"NEVER STAIN ANYTHING RELATED TO MAHJONG"
THAT'S MY "POLICY"!!

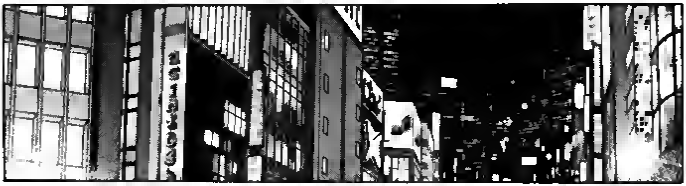
IT'S FINE, BECAUSE THAT'S JUST "POOP"!! GAHAHAHA

What about my notebook?

ACHO OOO!!
SO I GOT A COLD!? SAKE IS WHAT I NEED, SAKE.


FLIP

READ THAT AND BECOME STRONG
BUT THEN AGAIN, EVEN IF YOU JUST READ IT, IT'S MY VICTORY



SIGN. PARLOR-TENHOU

I CAME AFTER I SAW THIS
...YOU?
ARE YOU MEETING SOMEONE HERE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
UHM... I WANT TO WORK HERE
ゴソ

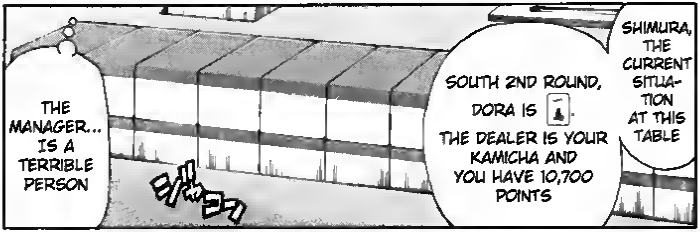
PLEASE EMPLOY ME HERE!!
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
I'M 15
.....!
HM...
DO YOU UNDER-STAND THAT THIS IS A PARLOR?
YES, I KNOW THE BASICS OF MAHJONG
IT'S NOT THAT
YOU CAN'T WORK IN A PARLOR IF YOU'RE UNDERAGE!
!
WAI
THE TRUTH IS, YOU JUST BEING HERE IS A PROBLEM

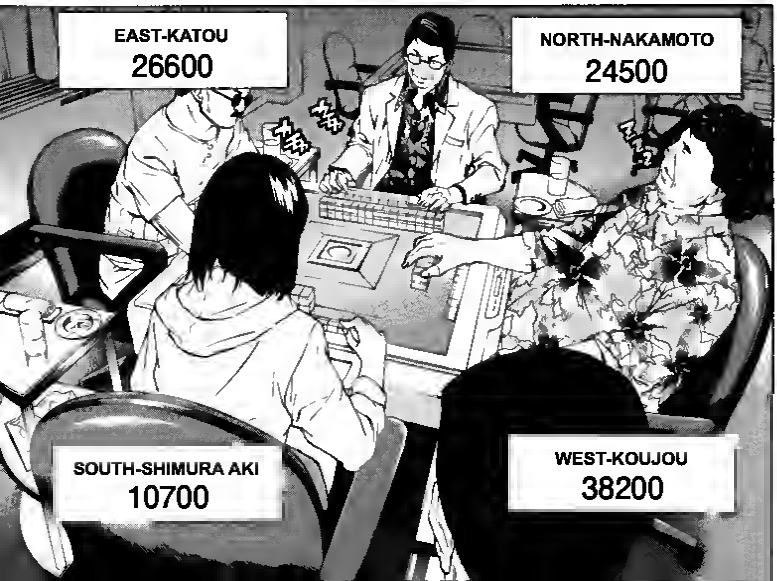
PLEASE! LET ME SHOW YOU MY MAH-JONG!
JUST ONE GAME!
NO WAY, GET OUT!
HEEEY SWEE-TIE
PLEASE LET ME!!
I BEG YOU...
I GOTTA GO TO THE TOILET, LET THAT GIRL SUBSTITUTE FOR ME
MAN-AGER?
AREN'T YOU A RUN-AWAY?

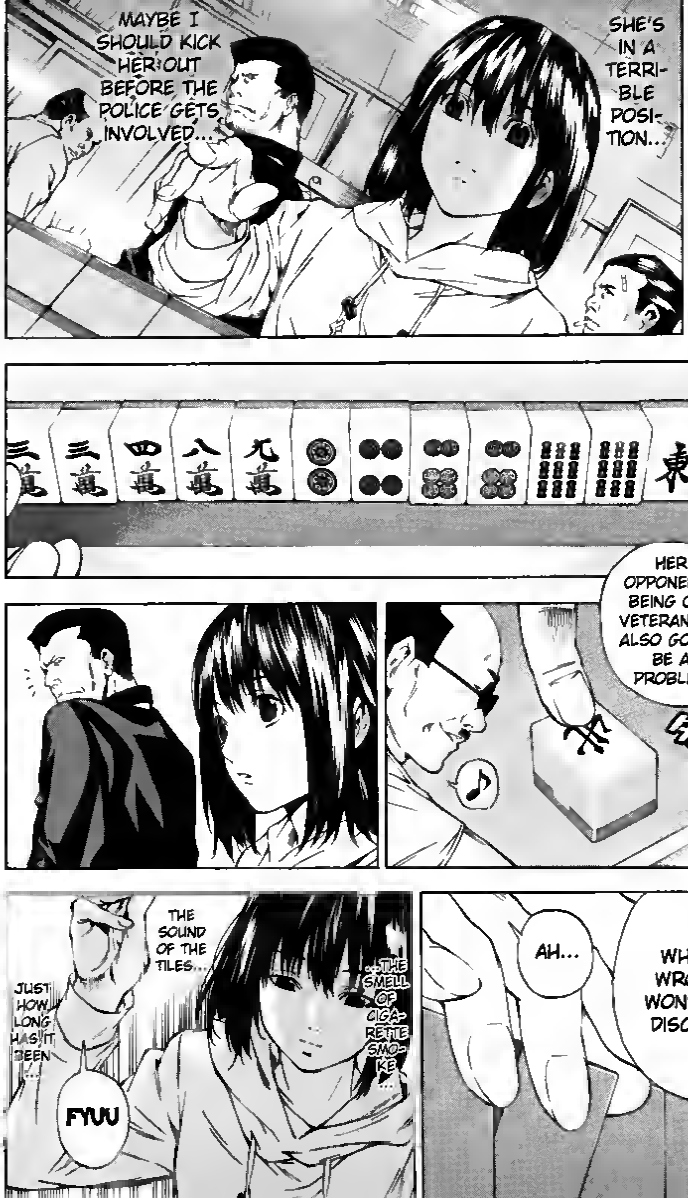
WANNA TRY?
WHAT, THAT'S RIDICULOUS...
.....
YES!
IF YOU LOSE, I'LL BE TURNING YOU OVER TO THE POLICE
IF YOU GET FIRST PLACE I'LL CONSIDER YOUR REQUEST
YOU LOOK SERIOUS
THEN THE SEAT IS YOURS
YES... THANK YOU
MANAGER..

NI...
TCH... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
-HA
DON'T CALL YOURSELF NIKAIDO WHEN YOU DO THINGS LIKE THAT
... NI-
MMM...

...THEN, SHIMURA, HERE'S A HOT TOWEL
TH-... THANK YOU
SHI- SHIMURA... SHIMURA AKI!
.....


THE MANAGER... IS A TERRIBLE PERSON
SOUTH 2ND ROUND, DORA IS
THE DEALER IS YOUR KAMICHA AND YOU HAVE 10,700 POINTS
SHIMURA, THE CURRENT SITUATION AT THIS TABLE


EAST-KATOU
26600
NORTH-NAKAMOTO
24500
SOUTH-SHIMURA AKI
10700
WEST-KOUJOU
38200

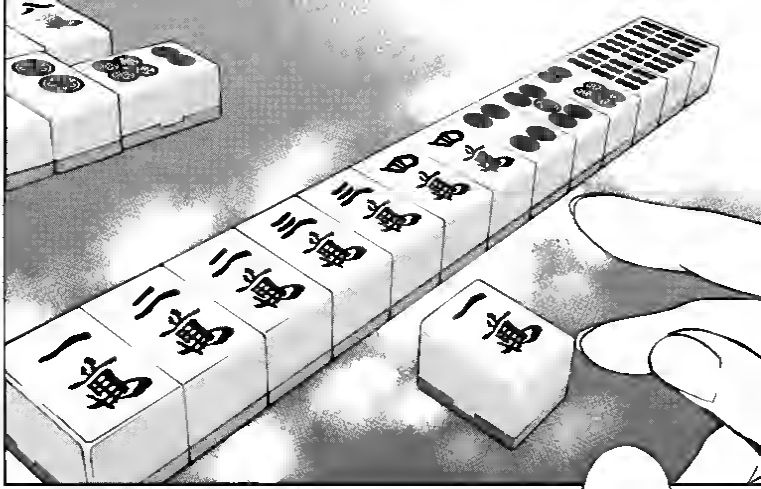

MAYBE I SHOULD KICK HER OUT BEFORE THE POLICE GETS INVOLVED...
SHE'S IN A TERRIBLE POSITION...
三萬 三萬 四萬 八萬 九萬 東
HER OPPONENTS BEING OLD VETERANS IS ALSO GONNA BE A PROBLEM
FUU
THE SOUND OF THE TILES...
THE SMELL OF CIGARETTE SMOKE...
JUST HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN...
FYUU
AH...
WHAT'S WRONG? WON'T YOU DISCARD?

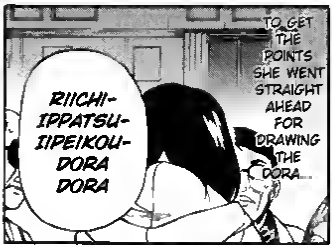
SHIMURA-CHAN, BEHIND YOU!
?
HUH?
I'M SORRY, IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE HELD A TILE...
WILL YOU BE ALRIGHT THEN, LITTLE GIRL?
THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM FAMILY MAHJONG
HI HI HI
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
コーーーン
!
SHIMURA---!?

MY REAL HOME-SICK-NESS
I REMEM-BER IT...
AL-RIGHT !!

DAD AND SIS AREN'T HERE...
I'M ALL ALONE
THIS IS TOKYO...
27,500 POINT DIFFERENCE WITH FIRST PLACE
ALL THAT I HAVE NOW IS 10,700 POINTS
FOR ME TO STAY IN THIS SEAT, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS...
RII-CHI !!
THIS RIGHT HERE IS MY REALITY!!
EVERYTHING
チャ

一萬




RIICHI-IPPATSU-IIPEIKOU-DORA DORA
TO GET THE POINTS SHE WENT STRAIGHT AHEAD FOR DRAWING THE DORA...

TSU-MO
HEY-HEY, SHE'S NOT JUST SOME BRAT

I JUST HAVE TO WIN!!
3000 6000!!

.....
*HOOO
NNN
KKKK*
SNIFF
SNIFF

NIKAIDO AKI'S AT A GLANCE

TILE EFFICIENCY

THE BEST IISHANTEN

How to expand your Tenpai chances?

For this example hand, just what tile should we discard to increase our chances for tenpai? The answer is discarding the or .

When I entered the world of professional mahjong (That was 12 years ago already!!) if I had a hand like this, I would have been absolutely sure that discarding the is the correct choice! Overwhelmingly right! No way could it be wrong!!

Even the most stubborn people agreed.

But if you claimed that nowadays, I think a lot of people would go "Eh? Seriously?", but that's how it was back then.

Nowadays discarding the would be mainstream.

Discarding the we maintain iishanten, we would wait on plenty of pinzu tiles, while giving up on the vital edge wait.

If we draw the , we would drop the and get back in iishanten with a nice pinzu shape we'd want. That's the theory.

Of course, since I believe mahjong isn't about getting the fastest tenpai, I wouldn't recommend discarding .

I would only discard those tiles if I needed any tenpai for the end of the round.
But I can't prove that my answer would be absolutely correct.
Maybe, mahjong that goes for the fastest tenpai might be the strongest.
Just following tile efficiency, getting to the fastest tenpai with a bad wait and calling riichi.
It might seem stupid at first glance, but that might actually be pretty strong.
But hey, if you decide that "This one is the only choice!", I don't think you can improve, it's too narrow-minded.

aki

Presented by
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Editing: xGeo
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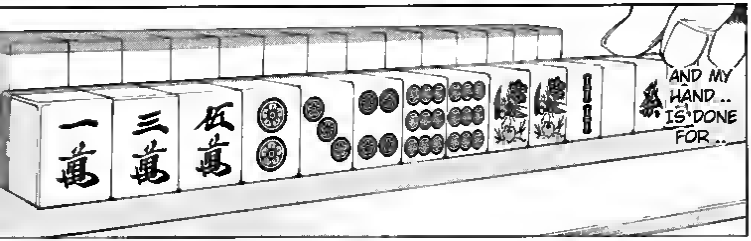
-I WANTED TO GROW UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
IT'S A PARLOR
I WAS FED UP WITH LIVING WHERE EVERYTHING WAS PROVIDED AND CHOSEN FOR ME
YEAH
PEOPLE I SPENT TIME WITH, PLACES I WENT TO... I WANTED TO DECIDE MY LIFE BY MYSELF
THAT'S WHY-

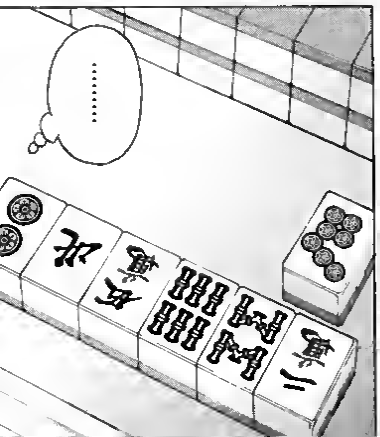
Episode: 10 Small Victory, Adult's Rules!
I AM RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW!

THIS IS A BLOW TO THEIR PRIDE...
ALL OF A SUDDEN THIS 15 YEAR OLD BRAT MADE A HANEMAN ..
HM?
KATOU
20,600
NAKAMOTO
21,500
KOUJOU
35,200
(FAKE NAME)
DEALER-SHIMURA AKI
22,700
SOUTH
3rd
ROUND
DORA

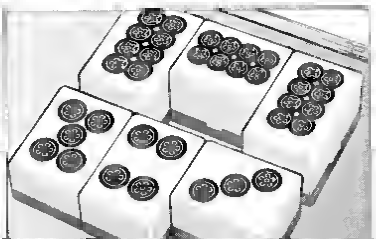
DORA!!
DEALER MANGAN THREE-SIDED WAIT!!
RII-CHI!!
.....

THAT'S BAD...
A DEALER RIICHI FROM THE LITTLE MISS


AND MY HAND.. IS DONE FOR..


.....

GRRRR

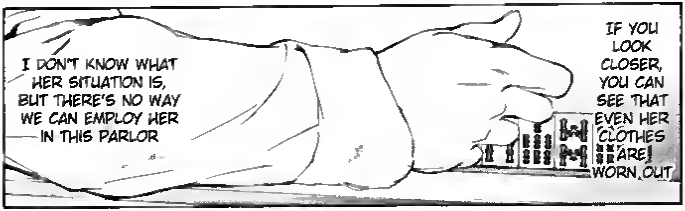


MAYBE I SHOULD BACK OFF WITH AN HONOR TILE
RON
1000 POINTS!!

NOT EVEN A MANGAN TSUMO WILL SAVE HER IN THE LAST ROUND
WITH THE RICHI STICK THAT THE LITTLE MISS THREW, THE POINT DIFFERENCE STAYS 12,500

THE ADULT WAY!!
HU-HU- ... THIS IS

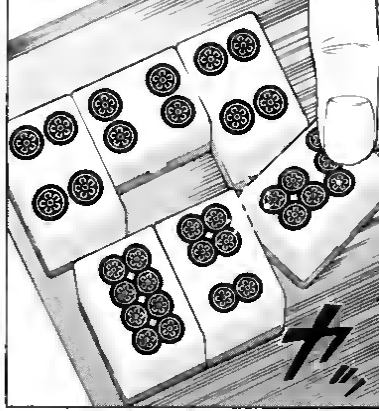
IT'S FOR THE BEST LIKE THIS
IT'S OVER NOW
YEAH..
HIM DEALING IN ON PURPOSE KILLED HER HAND

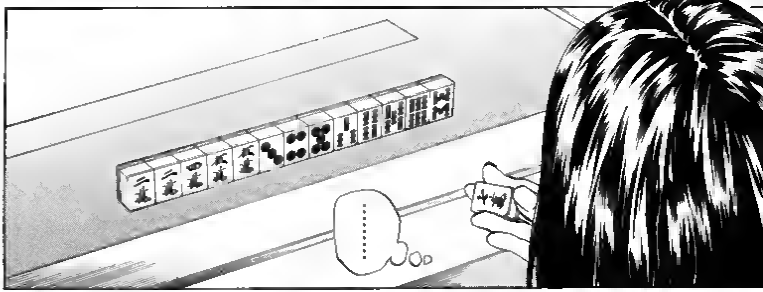

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HER SITUATION IS, BUT THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN EMPLOY HER IN THIS PARLOR
IF YOU LOOK CLOSER, YOU CAN SEE THAT EVEN HER CLOTHES ARE WORN OUT

NORTH-SHIMURA AKI
21,700
WEST-KATOU
22,600
SOUTH-NAKAMOTO
21,500
EAST-KOUJOU
34,200
SOUTH 4TH ROUND LAST ROUND!!

FOR A HANEMAN TSUMO I SOMEHOW HAVE TO MAKE A 345 SANSHOKU!!
THE DORA IS
CHII ~~!
PON!

五萬


カッ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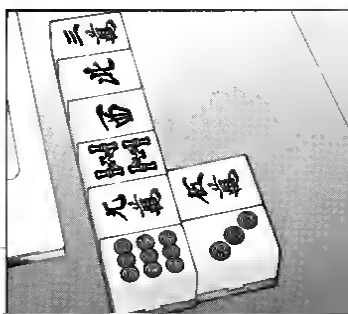
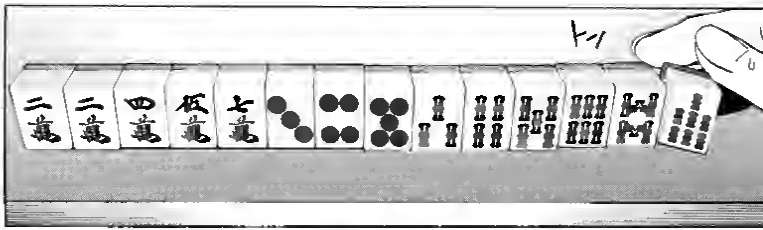


六萬
伍萬
伍萬
九萬
SHE HAS READ HIS TENPAI, SHE'S BETTER THAN I THOUGHT
GUH!

WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO!?
BUT DEALING SAFE TILES MUST BE PAINFUL

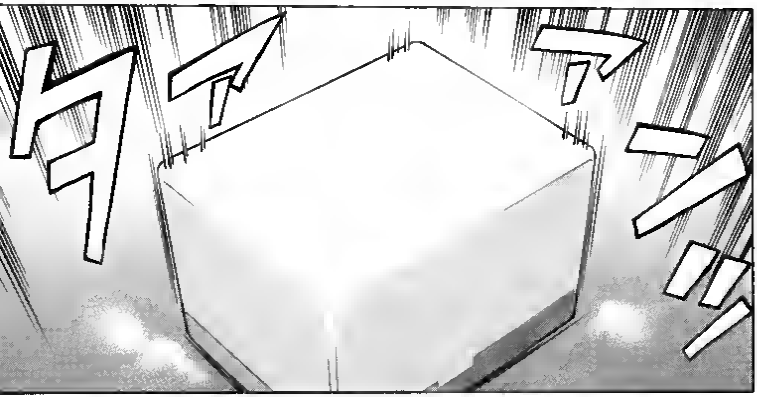


!!
ALRIGHT, WITH A MANGAN I CAN CAUSE AN UPSET!!

HOW'S IT GOING, IKARI-CHAN?
WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
IT'S OVER
RII-CHI!!
...IS THAT SO?
"TODAY NOTHING HAPPENED", THAT'S ALL
BUT, IT FEELS WON-DER-FUL...
I GUESS IT LOOKS THAT WAY
WATCHING MY MAHJONG THEY'RE PROBABLY THINKING "THAT'S PAINFUL"...

RIGHT NOW... I'M PLAYING REAL MAH-JONG...
IT'S COM-PLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE MAHJONG PROBLEMS I SOLVE IN MY NOTEBOOK BY MYSELF

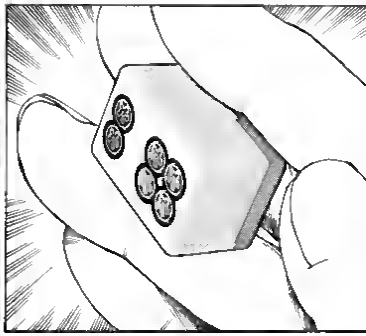
WELL, I SHOULDN'T BE UNREASONABLE HERE
カチャ
…


ウーン

I SEE!!
HE'S FOLDING?
!

WITH PA-TIENCE
THINGS CAN TURN OUT LIKE THIS!!

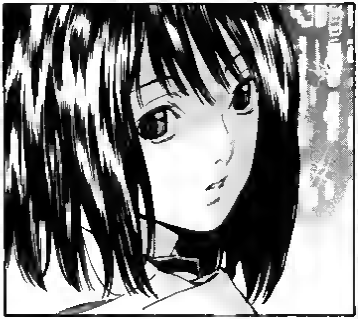
RII-CHI!!

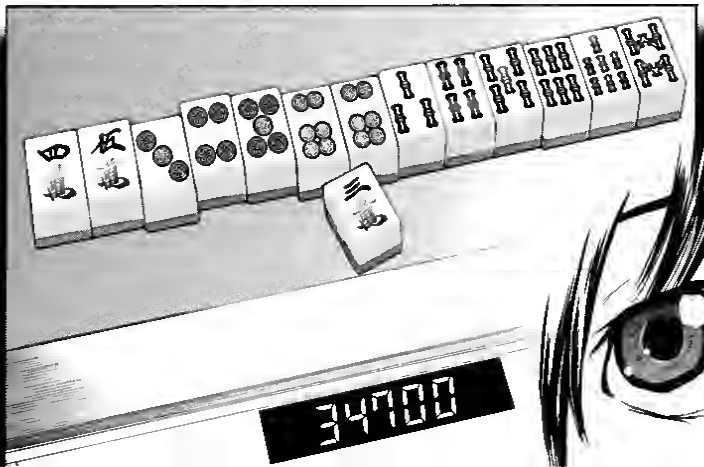


HOW-EVER, ABOVE THAT...
THE MOST PAINFUL THING IS NOT BEING ABLE TO DO ANYTHING

CAN BE THIS FUN!!
PLAYING MAH-JONG WITH PEOPLE
TSU-MO!!

ザッ




34700

?
YOU GOT FIRST PLACE WITH THAT HANEMAN EARLIER
HERE
NOW GET OUT
!?
YOU SAID I COULD WORK HERE IF I WON...
THE MANAGER SAID HE DOESN'T NEED THE CHANGE
+4,7 OKAUMA AND +50 ARE +54,7, BUT...
T/N SHE SHOULD BE GETTING 9470 YEN FOR +54,7
?
A PARLOR IS A PLACE WHERE EVERYONE WANTS TO HAVE FUN IT'S NOT A PLACE WHERE IT'S ONLY YOU THAT HAS FUN
HE SAID HE'D CONSIDER IT IF YOU WON

HE CONCLUDED THAT IT'D BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU BECAUSE OF HOW YOU ARE RIGHT NOW
THAT'S ALL
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOUR AGE
A PARLOR EMPLOYEE HAS TO BE MORE CONSIDERATE THAN ANYONE ELSE

...I UN-DER-STAND

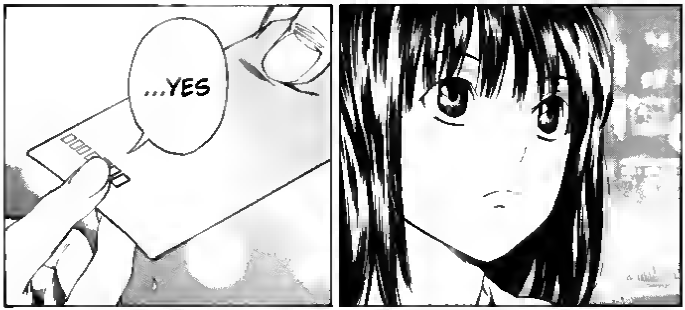
EVERY-ONE!
THANKS FOR TODAY!
!?
I DIDN'T WIN THAT MUCH
BUT I WON'T TAKE THE MONEY

EXCUSE ME
IT'S... KINDA REGRET-TABLE
YE- YEAH... I AGRE
SHE WAS REALLY CUTE... HEHE
Hahaha
Zzzz
okare
GUH

SIGN "PETAL SLALOM CHEAP AND AMAZING!!"

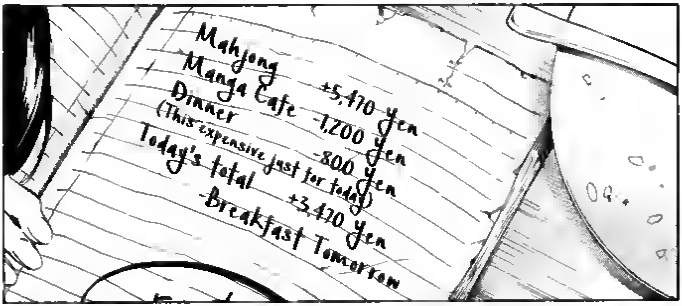
T/N: IT'S A BROTHEL

YOU HAVE TO TAKE EVERY SINGLE YEN YOU HAVE EARNED!!
THAT'S AN ADULT RULE!!

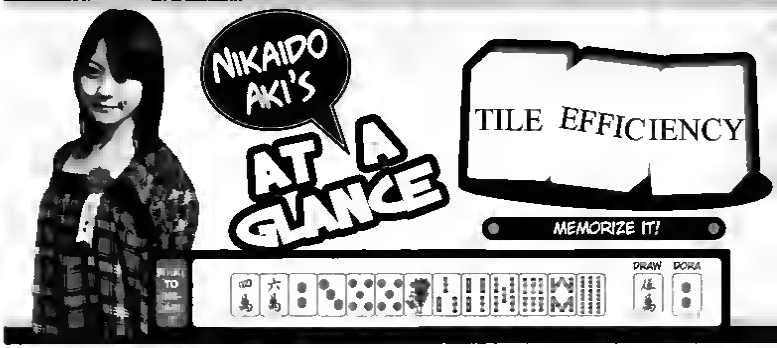

...YES

TH-... THANK YOU VERY MUCH
GOOD WORK!
THERE'S A MANGA CAFE STRAIGHT AHEAD, THE FOOD IS CHEAP AND DOESN'T TASTE BAD. I GUARANTEE IT
AH, THAT'S RIGHT

まんが喫茶
MANGA!


Mahjong +5,470 yen
Manga Cafe -1,700 yen
Dinner -800 yen
(This expensive fast for today)
Today's total +3,470 yen
-Breakfast Tomorrow

GOAL!
3,000YEN
(Day 1)



Let's see, what to discard here?
Since I'm a professional mahjong player I would have to shout "[1m] !" in less than 0.5 seconds.
No, there's no need to shout. Shouting inside a train or similar is bad, so just shout in your mind please.
Here's my reasoning behind discarding the [1m]. Maybe we would miss a tenpai by discarding the [4p] and drawing the [1p], but discarding the [1m] we would be in tenpai by drawing either the [1p] or [1m].
I can't say that discarding the [8p] and aiming for Ikkitsuuken would be bad, but the main theme of this series is "Tile Efficiency", so I won't consider the other discards.

What would you discard at first glance?

Then, how about this one?

[2m][3m][4m][5m][1p][2p][3p][4p][5p][6p][7p][1m][1m]

Draw is [1m], Dora [2s],

Alright, this time just 0.2 seconds is enough, isn't it?
The answer is [1p].
It's the same as the earlier example, I just switched the suit from souzu to pinzu and shifted the tiles from the higher to the lower ones.
Now that we have introduced this Ikkitsuukan Destruction Pattern twice (The mechanism is the same as in the first example), please memorize it properly. I want you to be able to make this discard within a second when you come across this pattern.

aki

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Lion's Ridge
Translation+
Cleaning+
Typesetting:
Rinshan
Cleaning (Kinda):
WhiTelion
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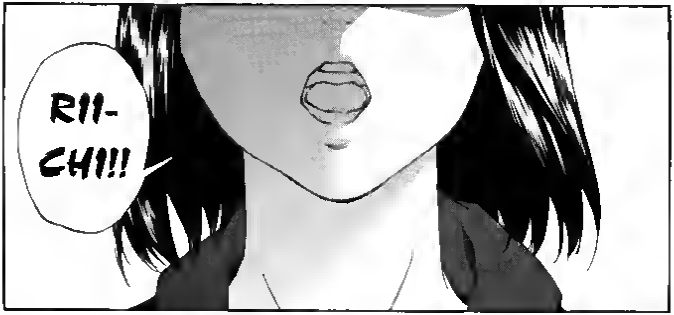
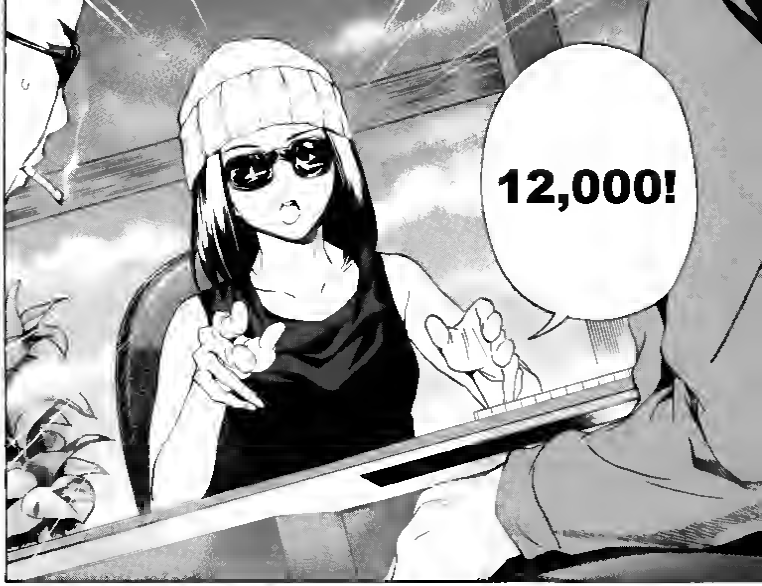
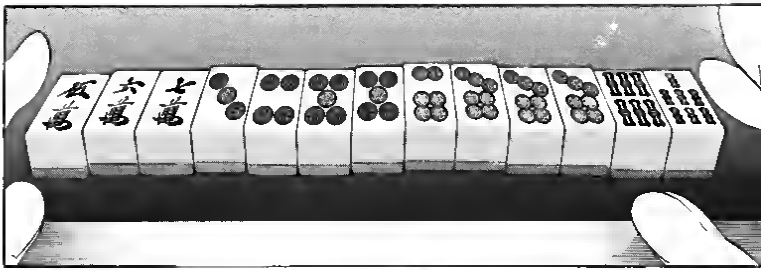
IF I WIN THIS ONE I'LL BE FIRST PLACE!!
-SHIT. WHO'S THIS WOMAN?


RII-CHI!!

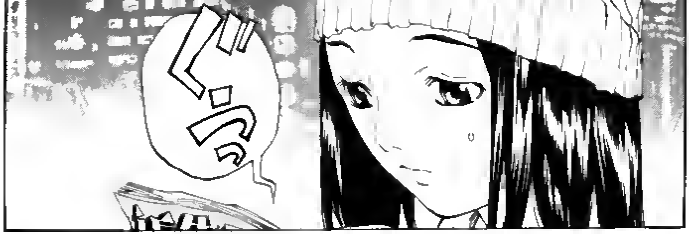
RON





SIGN PARLOR- CHINROUTOU

Episode: 11 *Dry Amurer*


ぐぅ

IT SEEMS NO PARLOR IS REPORTING UNDERAGE CUSTOMERS
I MEAN, FOR A "15 YEARS OLD HOMELESS" ANY OTHER JOB WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE

ANYWAY, GOTTA DO WHAT I CAN RIGHT NOW...
紅茶華伝
ROYAL MILK TEA

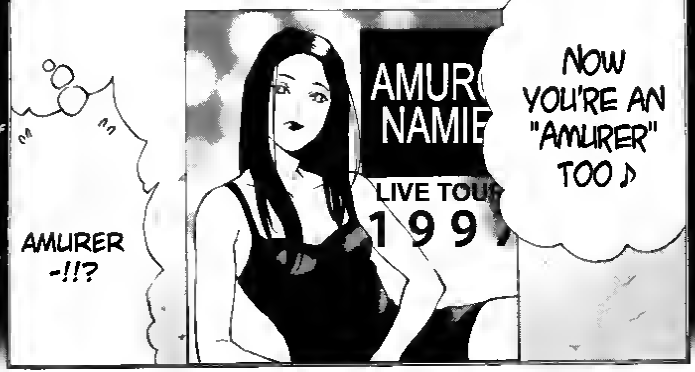
HOME-LESS... HUH RECENT-LY I HAVEN'T SEEN GRAMPS AROUND HERE...
WELL, I GUESS I LOOK LIKE ONE
GA HA HA HA

GO!GO! BARGAIN
!
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING SPECIFIC?
THAT'S WHY I HAD TO DO SOME PREPARATIONS.
I WONDER IF I COULD DRESS UP TO LOOK LIKE AN ADULT
AH, YES... IN ORDER TO ENTER PARLORS...
AAAH, I SEE♪

YOU TOO WANT TO LOOK LIKE HER, RIGHT?
EH? H-HER...?
LEAVE IT TO ME!
NOW, THIS ONE'S NEXT!!
!!
ﾌｯ
HURRY UP, HURRY UP
YOU'RE CUTE SO I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT WILL FIT♪
HEY-... I CAN DO... AH... IT MYSELF...!

WHO
IS
THIS?
A PLEATED SKIRT WITH KNEE-HIGH BOOTS. JEANS WOULD ALSO BE FINE, BUT
IF YOU'RE CHANGING YOUR IMAGE A SKIRT IS BETTER IN MY OPINION!

T/N: GIRLS WHO IMITATE THE FASHION OF POP-SINGER AMURO NAMIE, PARTICULARLY IN THE 90S, ARE CALLED "AMURERS" IN JAPAN



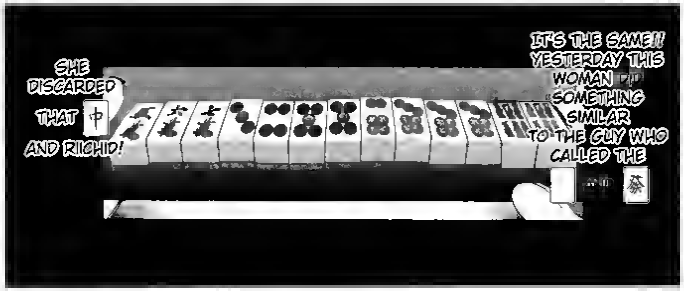
THEN MS. SHIMURA, PLEASE ENTER YOUR NAME HERE
Name
imura A
Addre
YES
HA-HAA...
(WHAT A WEIRD OUTFIT...)
I'M ALONE...
...I-I'M NEW HERE
NICE TO MEET YOU
GEH
...THAT'S RIGHT, I DON'T NEED THE SUNGLASSES WHEN I'M INSIDE THE PARLOR...
MADE TO SEE THE TIMES
THAT WOMAN FROM YESTERDAY!!

SFX. TILES HITTING TABLE
SOUTH 3rd ROUND
DORA
タン…
カチャ
っ
パシッ
I'LL HAVE TO WIN AS A GUEST— TO FEED MYSELF!!
IF I CAN'T BE AN EM- PLOYEE

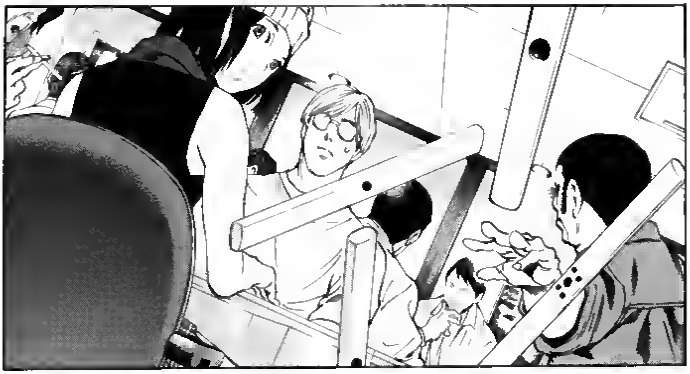
RIICHI!
HMPH, I WAS JUST CARELESS YESTERDAY
TODAY I WON'T LOSE
456 SAN-SHO-KU!!
GUH !!

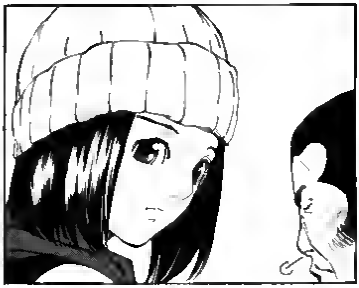
RON
JUST GIVE ME THE !
SAN-SHOKU
RIICHI IPPATSU
!?
8,000!

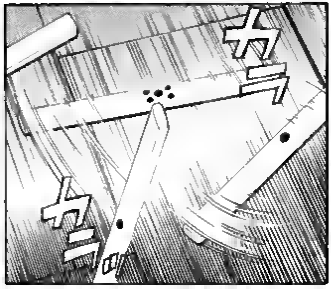
A SUJI TRAP !!


SHE DISCARDED THAT 中 AND RIICHI!
IT'S THE SAME!! YESTERDAY THIS WOMAN DISCARDED SOMETHING SIMILAR TO THE GUY WHO CALLED THE

I KN-OW!!
UHM... THE POINTS..






ガニ
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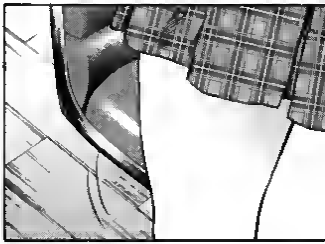
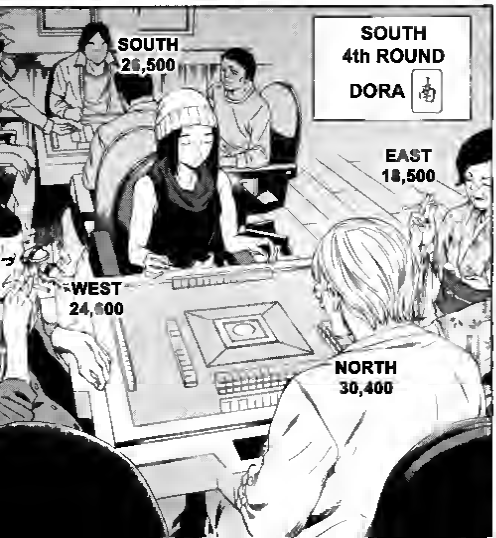
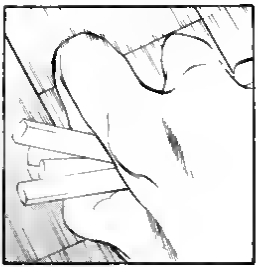
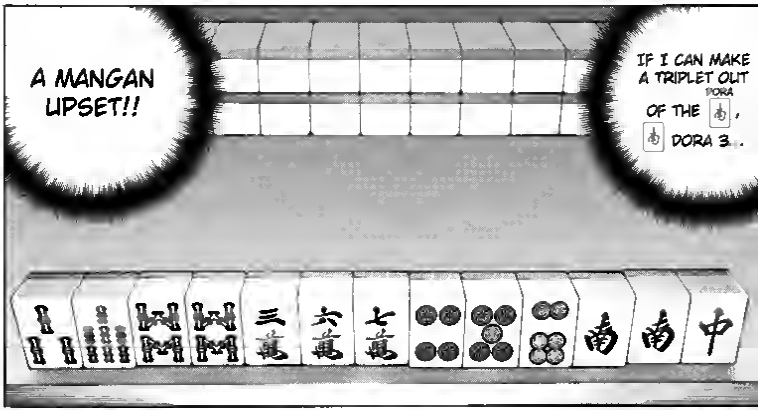
PLAYING SUCH FUCKING DIRTY MAHJONG EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE A WOMAN...
TSK




SOUTH
20,500
SOUTH
4th ROUND
DORA
EAST
18,500
WEST
24,600
NORTH
30,400




A MANGAN UPSET!!
IF I CAN MAKE A TRIPLET OUT OF THE 8 DORA, 8 DORA 3...

THIS TIME I'LL TURN IT AROUND AND GET FIRST PLACE!!

POOON!!
RON
!!?
YOU BRAT!! YOU'RE TOO CARE-LESS!!

IT'S
1,300

WHA-
...
...
SHE SETTLED FOR 2ND PLACE !?
THE 3,000 YEN NORM HAS BEEN ACHIE-VED ...!
WHAT THE FUCK IS SHE THINKING MAKING A WIN THAT DOESN'T CHANGE HER PLACEMENT!?
.....
HEY, YOU...

IS THAT KIND OF MAHJONG FUN TO YOU?
...RIGHT NOW
WHETHER IT'S FUN
OR NOT
DOESN'T MATTER ..
BECAUSE I DO IT TO SURVIVE

OH! IT HAS BEGUN
...HAA?
KOJIMA-SAN IS MAKING AN APPEARANCE
FINALLY, THE TOP PRO OF THE MAHJONG WORLD
THE HOMELESS GRAMPS FROM THE PARK!?
HUH!?
.....
MAH-JONG ...?
.....
TOP PRO ?
SONY

FURTHER-MORE...
THAT'S THE GRAMPS FROM THE PARK BACK THEN!?
MAH-JONG ...?
PRO-FES-SIONAL ...?

12000ノ

This time it's perfect tile efficiency again.
If we're going for tile efficiency, the answer is too obvious, but this is a column dedicated to beginners. Veterans please be patient, alright?
I know that the fundamentals of tile efficiency can be a bit overwhelming when you've just learned the rules of mahjong, but please look at the hand above and think.
So, what to discard?
Discarding the 4m here would actually be fairly disadvantageous.
We can split this shape into 3m 4m and 6m 7m and then be waiting on either the 3m 6m or 4m 7m which would put us in ryanshanten.

What would you discard at a glance?

So this one is all about the pinzu tiles. But discarding the 9p we lose our pair, so we won't be discarding that one.
It's discarding the 2p or the 5p. We should have the mindset where we don't want to lose our hand's pair.
Maybe, discarding the 5p, if we draw the 1p 5p, look

Draw. 1p

Whether we discard the 4m or 9p, it turns into a horrible pair wait for a tile we already have 2 of.
We would have to wait for a different wait and wouldn't be able to call riichi. A really bad choice.
The answer is 2p

aki

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Lion's Ridge
Translation+
Typesetting:
Rinshan
Cleaning:
WhiTelion
Editing: xGeo
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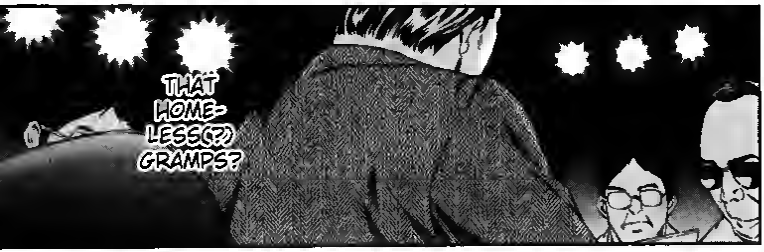
-THIS IS WHERE TODAY'S GAME WILL BE PLAYED!
KOJIMA-SENSEI WILL ALSO BE HERE TODAY
I WONDER IF HE'LL PLAY?

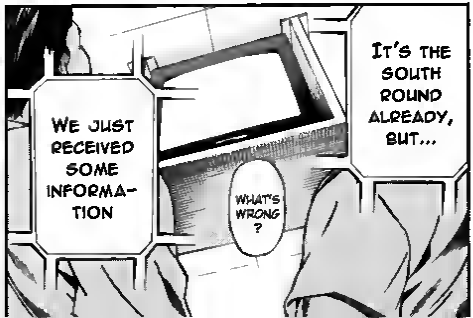
...GRA-MPS...
AH! ISN'T THAT KOJIMA-SENSEI?
YEAH
LET'S GO!!
COME, AKI-CHAN!
IT FEELS AS IF MY NEW START BEGAN BY WATCHING HIS BACK...
...NOW IF I THINK ABOUT IT...

VISA
SINCE THAT NIGHT...
June of 1997
Tokyo-Machida

SO THERE ARE MAHJONG PROFESSIONALS...?
PRO?


THAT HOMELESS(?) GRAMPS?

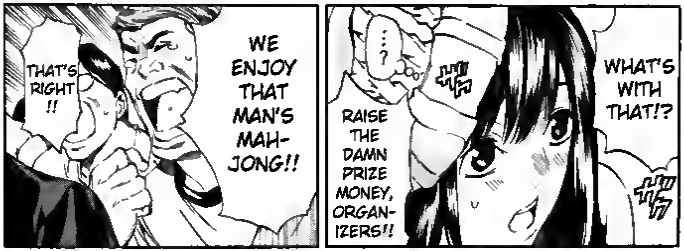
...F- FOR SOME REASON, KOJIMA-PRO SAID...
WHAT IS IT?
...EH!? SERIOUSLY?

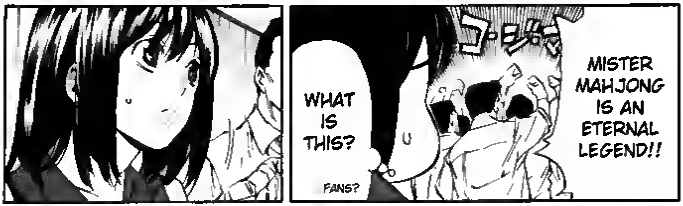

WE JUST RECEIVED SOME INFORMATION
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S THE SOUTH ROUND ALREADY, BUT...

He won't be appearing at another tournamet again!!
That if he doesn't win this tourna-ment
Episode: 12 Dunno

雀荘地和
WHAT THE HELL, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS!?
FOR REAL!?
GRAMPS
IS HE IN POOR HEALTH?
EEEH~... HE TOLD THE STAFF...

"THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR LOWERING THE PRIZE MONEY"
SEEMS LIKE THAT'S THE REASON


WE ENJOY THAT MAN'S MAH-JONG!!
THAT'S RIGHT !!
RAISE THE DAMN PRIZE MONEY, ORGAN-IZERS!!
WHAT'S WITH THAT!?


WHAT IS THIS?
FANS?
MISTER MAHJONG IS AN ETERNAL LEGEND!!

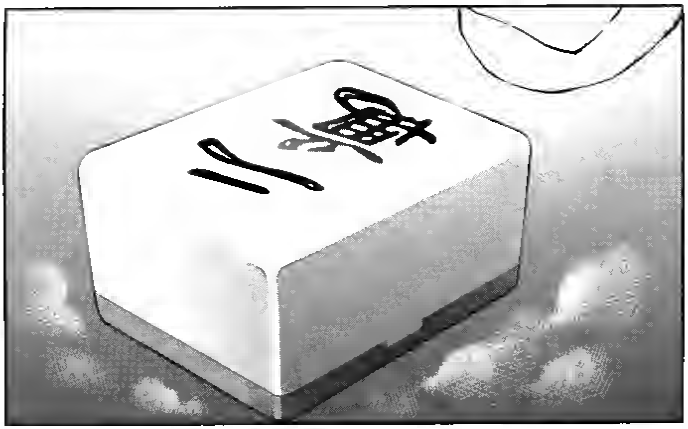
South 1st Round
Dealer-Kojima
DORA
PROS
HOW DO THEY PLAY...
Kojima Takeo

PON!
カンッ
Oh, Kojima passes on one 中!
EH?
PON
PON
PON
PON
PON
PON
PON
PON
PON
PON
And he doesn't call the 2nd one either!
EEEH?
Why, even though he's the dealer!?
If he'd called it he'd be in Ryan-shanten
He should have called

TSUMO
AAA~
TOO BAD, KOJIMA-SAN!!
ITAYAMA-PRO WINS WITH 500 1000
YOU WERE IISHANTEN FOR A HANEMAN-CLASS HAND
Kojima Takeo
パタ
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE DIDN'T WIN WITH IT...
HOWEVER...

RIICHI!
South 3rd Round
Dealer-Itayama
NORTH-KAWATA 30,200
WEST-KOJIMA 10,500
EAST-ITAYAMA 34,500
SOUTH-SUZUKI 24,600
A PRE-EMPTIVE DEALER RIICHI FROM ITA-YAMA!
DOUBLE PAIR WAIT FOR AND
Kojima Takeo
OH! KOJIMA DREW AND IS IN TENPAI!!
BUT, HE WOULD...

HAVE TO DISCARD THE 一萬 !!
IS KOJIMA GOING TO DEAL IN!?
HE'S DIS-CARDING THE 一萬
DON'T
ドゥーン



OOOOH, KOJIMA DOESN'T TAKE TENPAI!!
HE AVOIDED DEALING IN!!

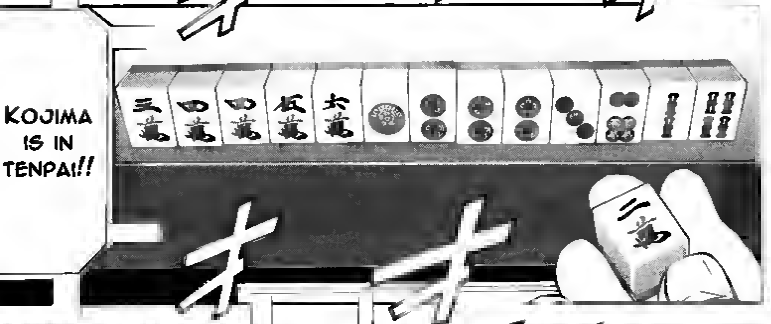
AAA AAH!!
KOJIMA DRAWS THE OPPO-NENT'S WINNING TILE AGAIN!!

NOW IT'S FOLDING
...HE GOT ALL THE EDGE TILES... IT'LL BE A DRAW
IF KOJIMA LETS HIM WIN HERE, IT'LL BE ALL OVER..
CAN'T HELP IT, HE HAS TO FOLD
RIICHI
!?

TSUMO
パチ
BA-
...

BAI MAN -!!
KOJIMA WHO SHOULD HAVE FOLDED GETS JUNCHAN SANSHOKU!!
... AMAZ- ING ...
KOJIMA TURNED IT AROUND WITH ONE STRIKE AND ENDED UP FIRST PLACE!!

South 4th Round
Dealer-Suzuki
Dora 南
WEST-KAWATA 26,200
SOUTH-KOJIMA 27,500
NORTH-ITAYAMA 25,500
DEALER-SUZUKI 20,800
HOWEVER, THE DIFFERENCE IS ONLY 1,300 POINTS!!
IT'S THE DECIDING LAST ROUND!!


KOJIMA IS IN TENPAI!!

KOJIMA DOES NOT RIICHI!!
EEEH!? BUT HE'D STAY FIRST PLACE WITH ANY WIN!?

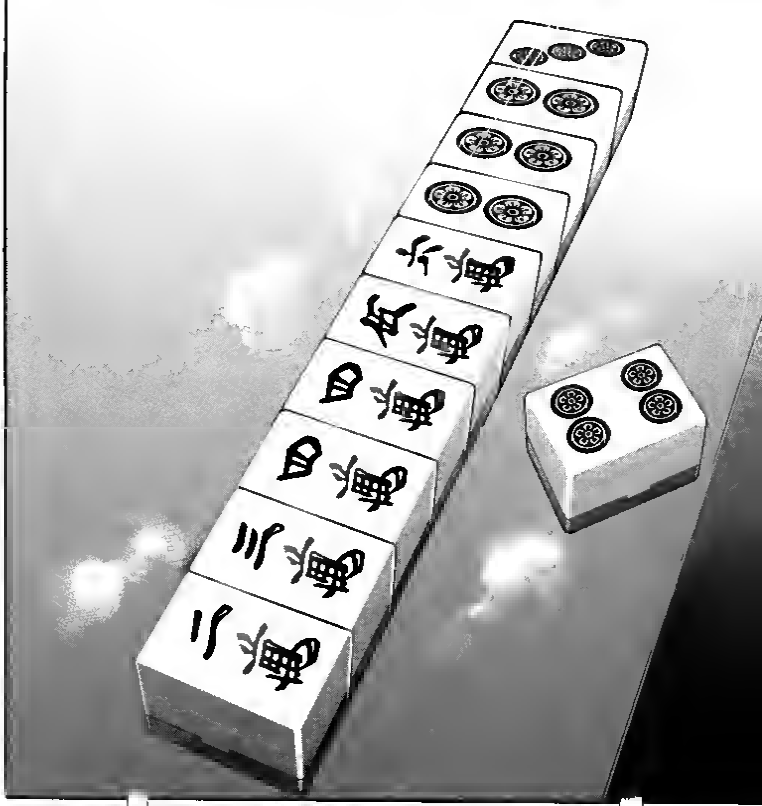
AAALRIGHT RIICH!!
ぐっ

HE WANTS TO CHANGE HIS WAIT
IT HAS POTENTIAL FOR TANYAO AND PINFU
THE CAME OUT, BUT
AAA~
HE CAN'T WIN OFF OF IT SINCE HIS HAND HAS NO YAKU!!
THAT'S WHY HE SHOULD HAVE RIICHI'D...

EH!?
CHII!
KOJIMA IS IN FURITEN!
RIICHI !!
RIICHI !!

一萬 二萬 三萬 六萬 七萬 八萬 南 南 南
田中秀樹
七萬 八萬 九萬 發 發
板山俊王
KOJIMA IS CAUGHT BETWEEN 2 RIICHIS!!
AND THE IS KAWATA'S WINNING TILE, IT'S A VERY DESPERATE SITUATION!!
OOOOOOOOOH
AAAA

ガシ
GOT IT!!



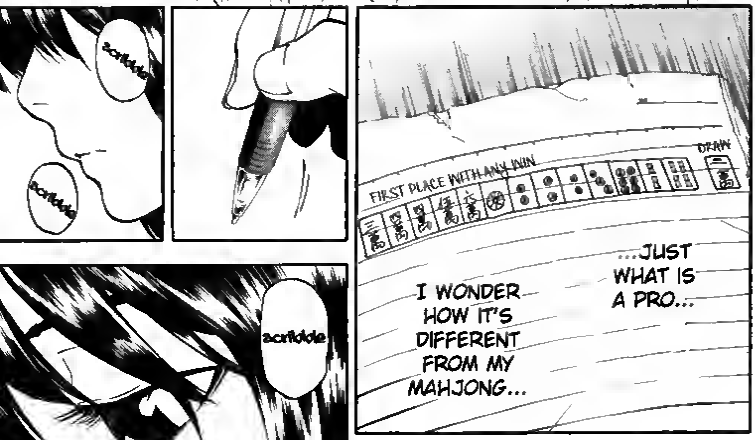
KO-... KOJIMA WON WITH A TSUMO!!
OVER-ALL VICTORY -!!

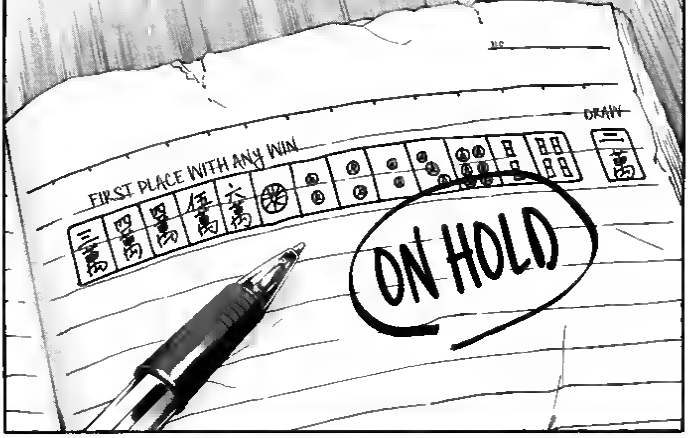
I CAN'T HELP BUT MAKE A GAMBLE!
EVEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS
ALL OF US WERE SURPRISED WHEN WE HEARD KOJIMA'S ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT TONIGHT'S TOURNAMENT
AND EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKED LIKED IT WAS OVER, KOJIMA MANAGED TO PULL THROUGH WITH A FURITEN SANSHOKU!!
SFX CLAPPING
HEHE... HE MADE US SHIVER LIKE ALWAYS
AN APPLAUSE FOR MAHJONG ...?

THAT'S WHAT MAHJONG IS ALL ABOUT

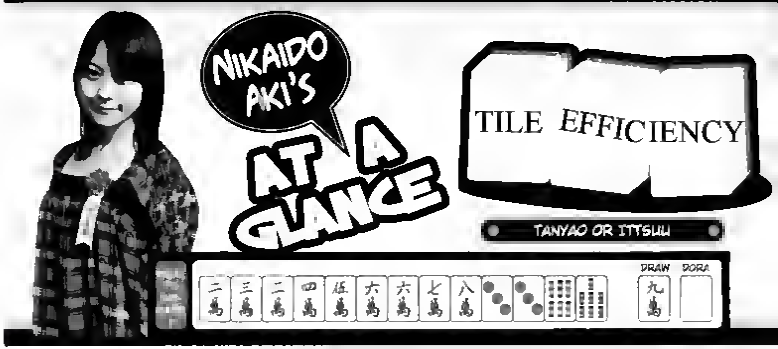
まんが喫
MANG

THAT'S WHAT MAHJONG IS ALL ABOUT


scribble
scribble
FIRST PLACE WITH ANY WIN
DRAW
I WONDER HOW IT'S DIFFERENT FROM MY MAHJONG...
...JUST WHAT IS A PRO...
scribble


FIRST PLACE WITH ANY WIN
DRAW
ON HOLD

DUNNO...



The example above is Iishanten for Pinfu. And at a spot where we're thinking about Tanyao we draw a 九萬.
Now we have also a possibility for Ikkitsuukan.
Let's say we go for Ikkitsuukan. You can't discard both the 一萬 and the 九萬 at the same time!
Until now we were going for Tanyao Pinfu, forgetting all about it just because we drew the 九萬 would be weird.
Let's say we discard the 八萬. Now we will have a shape like this.

It's rare, but it can happen!

If we draw a 七萬 now, we get our Ikkitsukan. If we draw the 四萬 and discard the 九萬 we get a Tanyao Pinfu again and that's also fine.
However! Here's the thing. If we draw the 七萬, what do we do?
Look, we won't have any other choice but to discard the 七萬 and go for a shabby Pinfu only hand.
So what if we instead discarded the 二萬 first, what would we get?

If we draw the 一萬 we have Ikkitsuukan again. If we draw the 四萬, Tanyao Pinfu again by discarding the 九萬. And if we draw that troublesome 七萬 from earlier... Look! We can discard the 九萬 for a wonderful Tanyao Pinfu!

aki

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Rinshan
Editing: xGeo
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Rinshan's Corner

Since this manga is an autobiography, Kojima Takeo is a real person.
He is an old mahjong veteran, popularly called "Mister Mahjong", said to be one of the best players of all time.

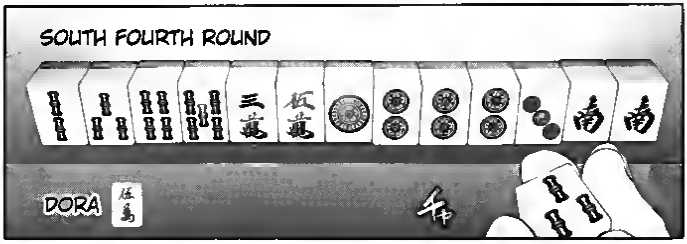
キーン
コーン
カーン
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD REPLY TO MY LETTER
URATA-SAN...

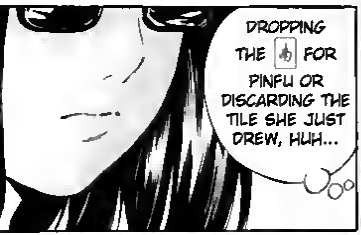
WHY A LETTER?
ONE QUES-TION

YOU'RE A MAN AND YET YOU'RE GETTING EMBAR-RASSED?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE THAT MOUTH FOR...?
EH? BECAUSE A FACE-TO-FACE CONFESSION IS EMBAR-RASSING
!?

I love you
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY USE YOUR MOUTH AND SAY IT PROPERLY!!
Episode: 13

SOUTH
35,000
EAST
20,500
WEST
13,300
NORTH
31,200
(AKI)
PARLOR
"SUUKANTSU"

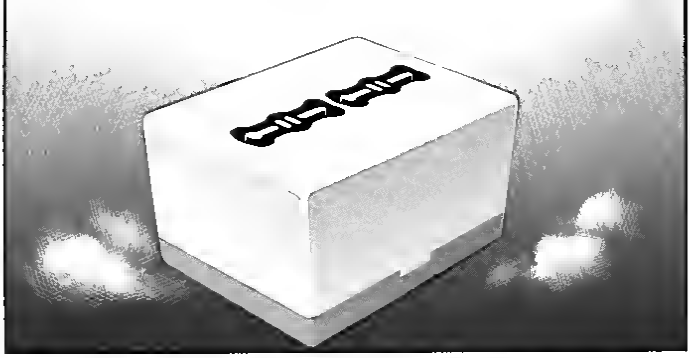

SOUTH FOURTH ROUND
三萬
伍萬
南
南
DORA
伍萬


DROPPING THE 伍 FOR PINFU OR DISCARDING THE TILE SHE JUST DREW, HUH...

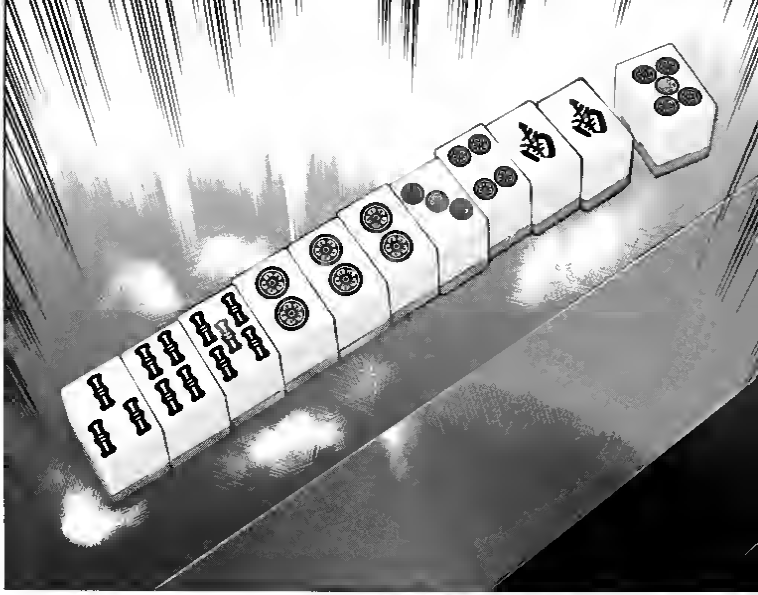
カチャ

3,900 POINTS FOR FIRST PLACE, HUH...
SHE WANTS TO HOLD ONTO THAT RED 伍

WITH A 8 PON SHE'D BE IN TENPAI BUT WITH A BAD SHAPE!
ツモッ
パニッ
CHII!
THEN IT MEANS DROPPING THE 8 PAIR AND GOING FOR TANYAO...
BECAUSE SHE HAS THE DORA INDICATOR SHE CAN'T PASS ON THAT THIRD 8 I GUESS



EH!?
IF SHE WANTED TO KEEP THE
SHE SHOULD HAVE DISCARDED THE
INSTEAD
RON



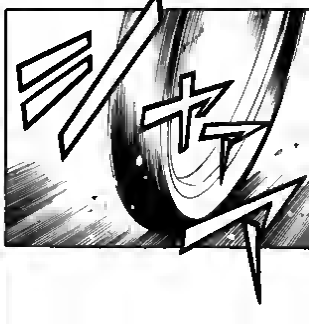
3,900 AND 1 CHIP MEANS GAME OVER

EVEN THOUGH SHE'S YOUNG SHE'S PLAYING LIKE THERE'S NO TOMORROW...
AH... IT'S HOT...
IT'S TOO BRIGHT...
!
JUST WHAT WILL POOR LITTLE ME DO AGAINST THE SUN THIS YEAR..
TH-... THAT'S...!!
10 Left

THE DREAMY "MACHIDA MILK PUDDING"!!
The fusion of ginger and milk is wonderful!
I wouldn't mind going from Queen to Pudding slave for this!
Dear Queen, is it to your taste?
I'VE HEARD OF THE "QUEEN'S BRUNCH" BEFORE

TO PLAY MAHJONG PROPERLY YOUR BRAIN NEEDS A STEADY SUPPLY OF SUGAR!
BUY IT, BUY IT!

INDULGENCE IS YOUR ENEMY!!
AK!, NO! YOU CAN'T AFFORD SWEETS AT A TIME LIKE THIS!


シャッ

ALRIGHT! I'VE DECIDED!!
YES?
UH-UHM!!

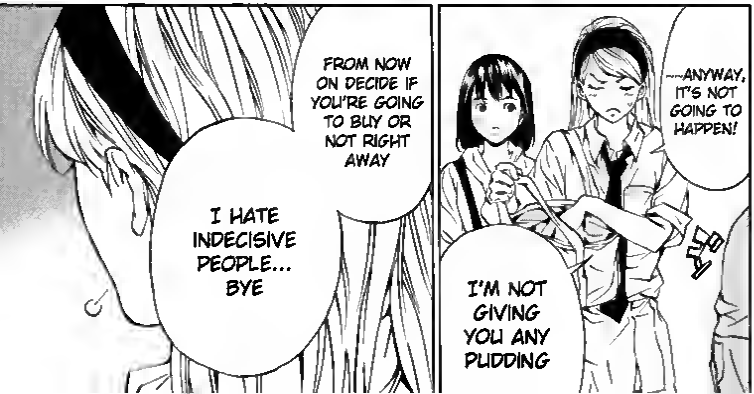
MILK PUD-
-DING
I'LL BUY ALL OF IT!!
Sold O
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
EH?
HEY, YOU!
EEH?
EEE

FOR A CHANCE YOU NEED
"SPEED" AND "COURAGE TO MAKE THE FIRST STEP"
"HUMMERN
YOU BETTER REMEMBER IT
BYE
AH, WAIT!

ズズ――――…
!
WHOOPS
ARE, ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?
NO I'M NOT! THE PUDDING COULD HAVE SPILLED!!
VISA
BLIH

SORRY, I JUST WANTED TO BUY ONE PUDDING FROM YOU...
YOU SHOULD HAVE SAID SO EARLIER!!
THAT'S RIGHT... BUT... MORE IMPORTANTLY...

!!
THEY CAN SEE IT
SAY THAT BEFORE TALKING ABOUT PUDDING, YOU IDIOT!!
I'M SORRY


FROM NOW ON DECIDE IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY OR NOT RIGHT AWAY
I HATE INDECISIVE PEOPLE... BYE
---ANYWAY, IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!
I'M NOT GIVING YOU ANY PUDDING

WEIRDO...
WHAT!? IT'S JUST PUDDING YET SHE'S TALKING LIKE THAT.
JUST A PERSON WHO WANTED SOME PUDDING
シャアアア

雀荘
大三元
SIGN PARLOR DAI-SAN-GEN

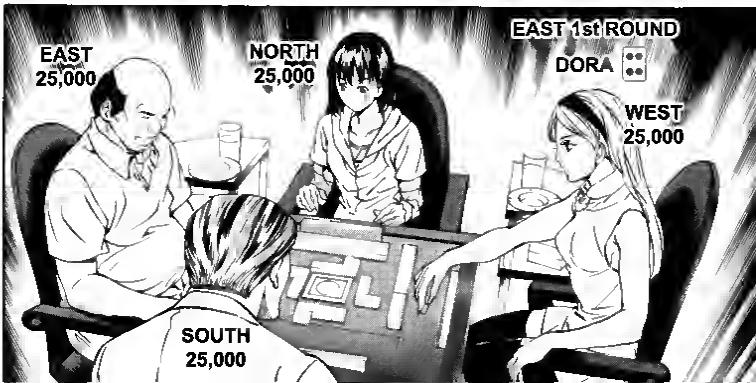
カラン
カラン
WEL-COME!
I'LL LET IT ALL OUT WITH MAH-JONG!
AL-RIGHT! TODAY WAS VERY IRRI-TATING SO...

YOU'RE ...
NO WAY... SHE'S WORKING HERE?
THE SUCKER FROM THIS AFTERNOON
WH-WHO'S A SUCKER!?
SORRY, BUT EARLIER YOU WERE JUST A CHICKEN WHO COULDN'T EVEN BUY A SINGLE PUDDING

THIS ISN'T A PLACE FOR CHILDREN LIKE YOU!
BY THE WAY, WHAT DO YOU WANT?
AH, I'M 15
HMPH, HOW OLD ARE YOU?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, I CAME TO PLAY!
... ISN'T ...
SORRY, I'M ACTU-ALLY 18!!
I REALLY WANT TO PLAY
IT- IT WAS JOKE!!

ガチャ
SO WE'RE THE SAME AGE
BUT YOU DON'T LOOK AT IT LIKE ALL
SUCKER-CHAN?
...CALLING ME A SUCKER...
PLEASE DO THAT AFTER YOU'VE PLAYED ME!!
I WILL DEFINITELY LEAVE THIS PLACE WITH A PROFIT!!
!
SOUNDS INTEREST-ING!

IF YOU BEAT ME I'LL SHARE SOME PUDDING WITH YOU!


EAST
25,000
NORTH
25,000
EAST 1st ROUND
DORA
WEST
25,000
SOUTH
25,000

ウーン
ALRIGHT! IISHANTEN!!
T/N HIMAWARI-SUNFLOWER
HOHOHO, HIMAWARI-CHAN CALLED. IT'S SCARY
EH?
PON

HONOR TILES ARE LIKE PUDDING
HA?
HI-MAWARI ?
CALL--ING A WIND THAT'S NOT HERS
BUT THE HONOR TILES AREN'T NUMBERED, THEY'RE VERY SIMPLE
THE THREE SUITS ALL HAVE NUMBERS ASSIGNED TO THEM
パシ!
チャ
WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT? THIS GIRL...
A LIVE 中 ...
タンッ
タン
パシ!

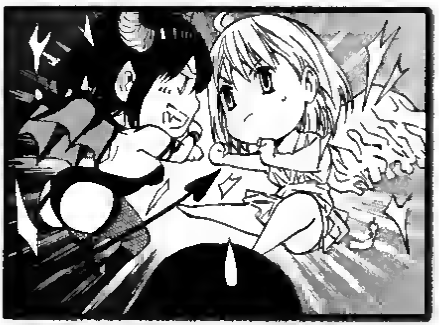
OH NO!!
タンッ
PON
?
?
BUT IF WE WERE TO ARRANGE PUDDING
CERTAINLY IT WOULD BE "PARFAIT" THE FRENCH WORD FOR "PERFECTION"

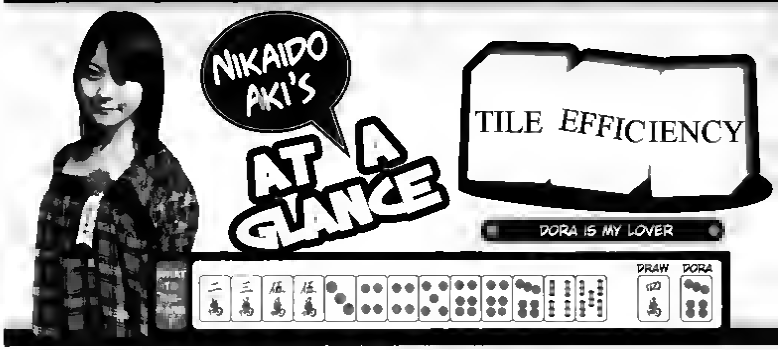
...JUST THROW YOUR CAUTION INTO THE WIND...
I DON'T GET IT... BUT IF I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT NO MATTER WHAT!!
PON!
RII-CHI!!
IT'S TOO SOON TO FEEL RELIEVED
THU MP
...I'M RELIEVED, IT WAS JUST A PON... NO..
THU MP
THU MP
EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT TO DEAL THIS, I HAVE NO CHOICE...
THU MP

IF SHE HAS NO YAKU, IT CAN'T FALL TO A TWO-SIDED...
クリア
ーン
IT'S COM-PLETE!
!!
RON

!!

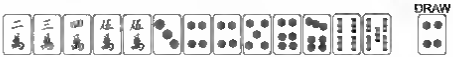
SHE IS!! ...STRONG!!
PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY ARE BETTER THAN ME IS WHAT I HATE THE MOST
I HATE PEOPLE WHO ARE INDECISIVE, BUT





The example hand above is iishanten, but just what should we discard here?
Whether we discard the [2p] or [3p], it'll be a nice shape that's waiting for [1p][2p][3p] ... is what you'd think.
Almost everyone would think that it doesn't make a difference which tile we discard, but there is one draw that makes a difference.
That was your hint.
So, do we discard the [2p]? Or do we discard the [3p]?
The answer is [3p].
If we discard the [3p], the [2p] in the lower tiles can become a closed triplet, and we would enter tenpai like this

Dora focused tile efficiency!



We can discard the [4s] to enter tenpai that incorporates the dora
However, if we discard the [2p], and we draw the [2p]

Look, the dora [3p] is in the way now, we can't discard it and now we can't enter tenpai.
The [2p] being the dora indicator means it's nearly impossible to make a hidden triplet out of it, and we can't make use of the dora, so the answer is definitely a [2p] discard

aki

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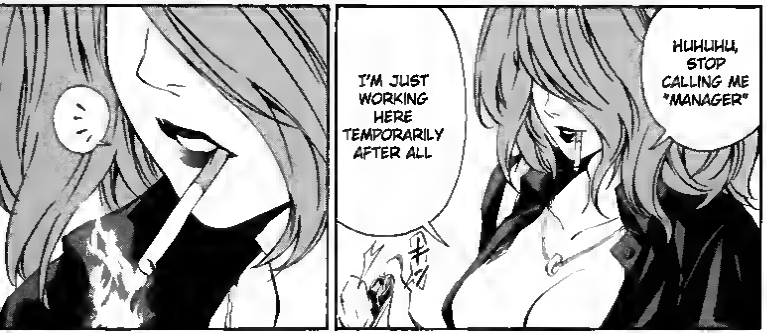
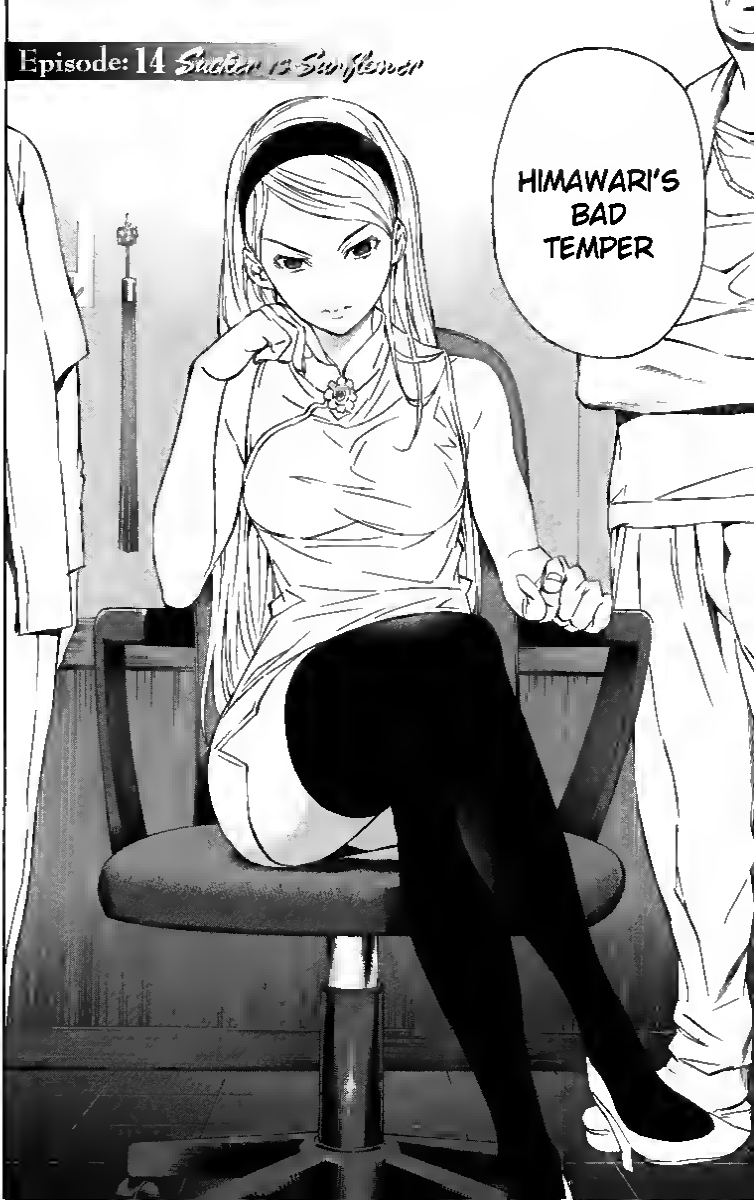
雀荘
大三元
SIGN PARLOR DAI-SAN-GEN
AH, WELCOME BACK, MANAGER
I'M BACK~

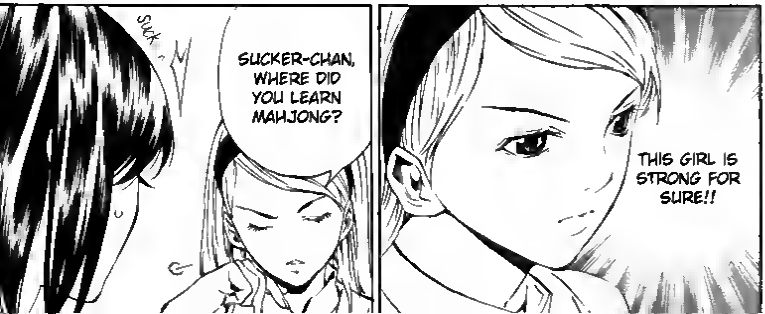

I'M JUST WORKING HERE TEMPORARILY AFTER ALL
HUHUHU, STOP CALLING ME "MANAGER"

IT HAS TO BE...
YEAH
HASN'T IT BEEN AGES SINCE SHE SAT AT A TABLE?
OH MY, WHAT A RARE SIGHT...

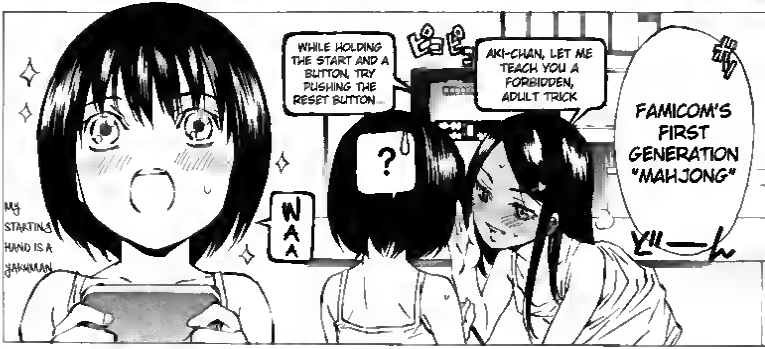

HIMAWARI'S BAD TEMPER

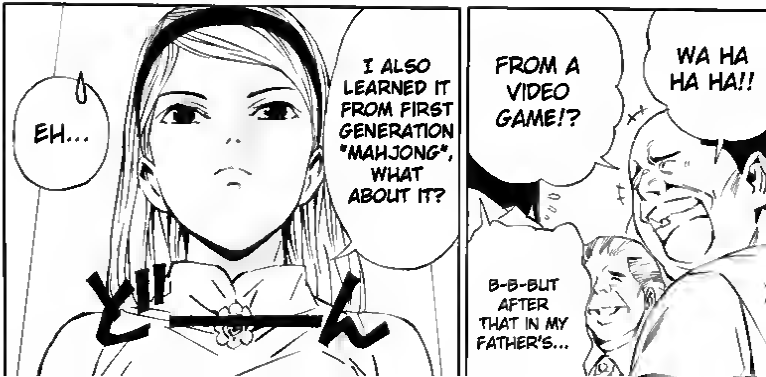
East 4th Round
Dealer:
Nikaido Aki
Dora
17200
43200
21000
18600

THAT WASN'T MY INTENT.. BUT
PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY ARE BETTER THAN ME IS WHAT I HATE THE MOST


SUCKER-CHAN, WHERE DID YOU LEARN MAHJONG?
SUCK
THIS GIRL IS STRONG FOR SURE!!

WHERE DID YOU LEARN IT!?
IT'S NOT SUCKER!
MY NAME IS AKI!

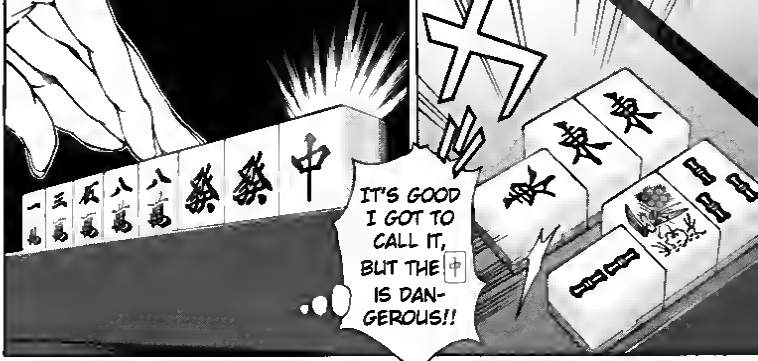

WHILE HOLDING THE START AND A BUTTON, TRY PUSHING THE RESET BUTTON
AKI-CHAN, LET ME TEACH YOU A FORBIDDEN, ADULT TRICK
FAMICOM'S FIRST GENERATION "MAHJONG"
MY STARTING HAND IS A YAKUMAN
WAA
?


EH...
I ALSO LEARNED IT FROM FIRST GENERATION "MAHJONG", WHAT ABOUT IT?
FROM A VIDEO GAME!?
WA HA HA HA!!
B-B-BUT AFTER THAT IN MY FATHER'S...

BESIDES THAT OUR LIVES HAVE BEEN VERY DIFFERENT, I'LL TEACH YOU
...BUT
WE DON'T KNOW THAT UNTIL THE GAME IS OVER!
PON
I'LL CATCH UP HERE!!
FIRST OF ALL,
A WIND THAT'S NOT HERS AGAIN!?

PON
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON!
カシャッ
I LET HER CALL TWO TIMES IN A ROW!!
カシャ
CHII!
I'LL LOSE MY DEALER TURN LIKE THIS!
I GOT THE ... I'LL FOLD...
...I WON'T DEAL THIS ONE AFTER ALL...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THOSE TWO ARE DOING...
?

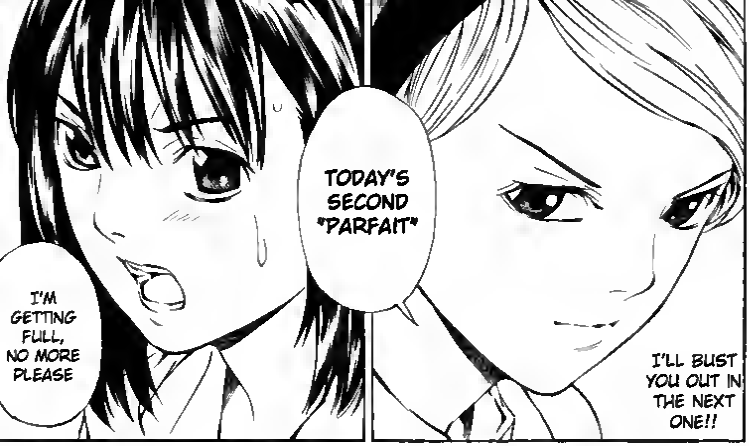
……
…I CAN'T DEAL THE …
SHE'HAS TO HAVE THEM…
PO POPOPO-PON!!
TH-THAT ONE

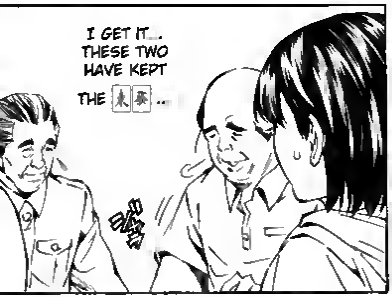

IT'S GOOD I GOT TO CALL IT, BUT THE 中 IS DANGEROUS!!

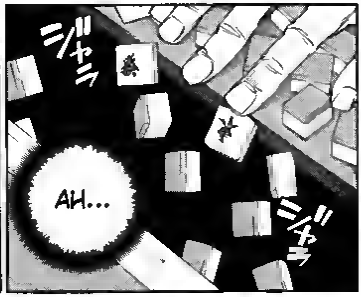
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT PUDDING IS CALLED WHEN ARRANGED?
NO WAY!

タァンッ

RON
TOITOI
HONITSU
HANEMAN!!

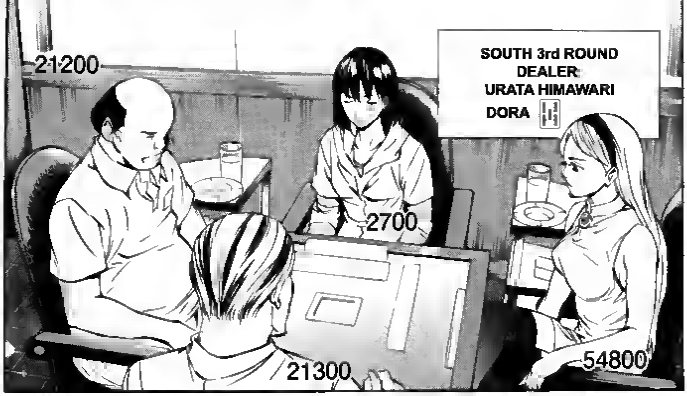

TODAY'S SECOND "PARFAIT"
I'M GETTING FULL, NO MORE PLEASE
I'LL BUST YOU OUT IN THE NEXT ONE!!

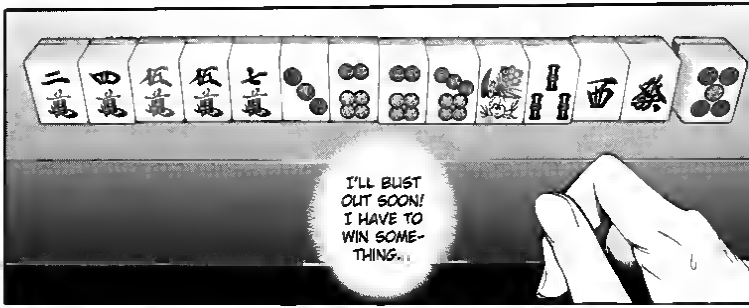

I GET IT... THESE TWO HAVE KEPT THE 東 発 ...


ニギュラ
AH...
ニギュラ

THANK YOU VERY MUCH
カラン カラン

IS THAT SO? SHE DEALT IN NICELY
THAT GIRL HASN'T SHOWN ANYTHING YET...
EH? BUT IT WAS A HANEMAN

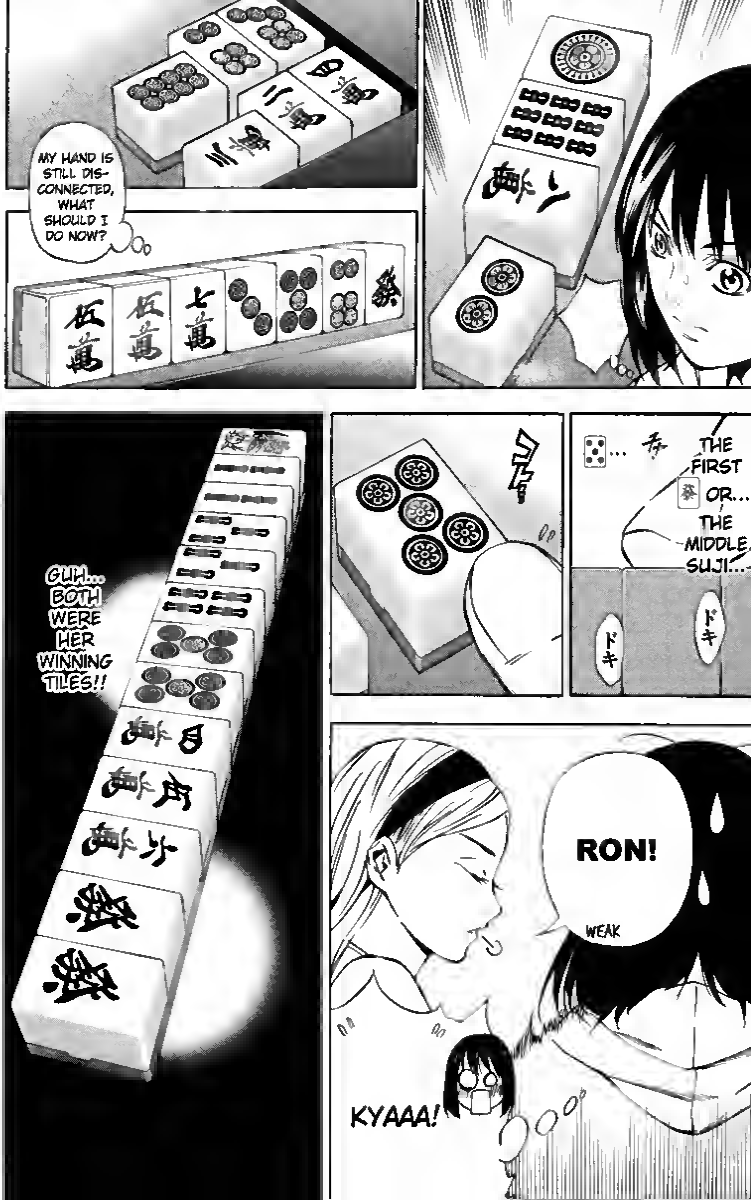

21200
SOUTH 3rd ROUND
DEALER
URATA HIMAWARI
DORA
2700
21300
54800


I'LL BUST OUT SOON! I HAVE TO WIN SOMETHING...

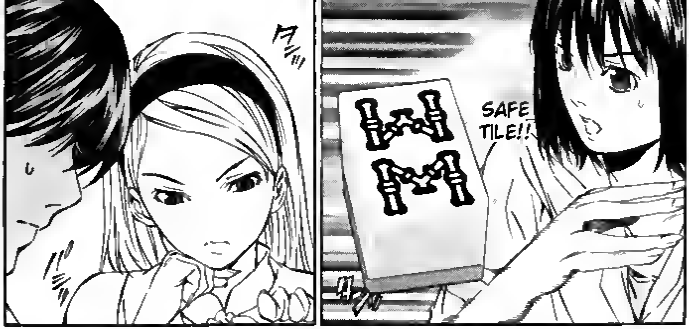
.....

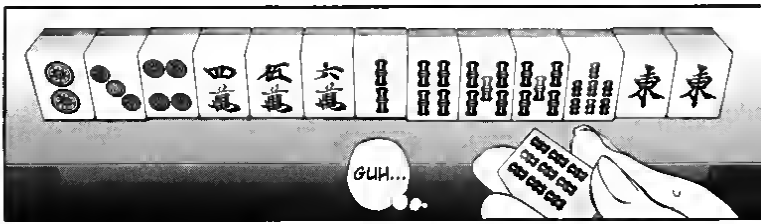
LIKE THIS I REALLY AM A SUCKER

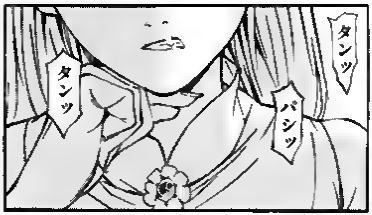
I HAVE TO KICK HER OFF THE DEALER TURN AND GET IT FOR MYSELF!!
CHII!
DEALER!!
DEALER
DEALER
CHII!
RII-CHI!!

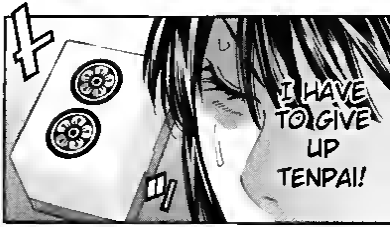

MY HAND IS STILL DISCONNECTED, WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
THE FIRST OR... THE MIDDLE SUJI...
ドキ
ドキ
GUH... BOTH WERE HER WINNING TILES!!
RON!
WEAK
KYAAA!

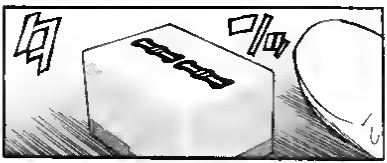
RII-CHI!!
2ND HANCHAN
EAST 4th ROUND
DEALER: URATA
DORA
WHOA, SHE HAS NO MERCY
THOSE GIRLS
I WONDER WHY THEY PLAY MAHJONG...
EH... WHY...?
ANOTHER RIICHI!
AGAIN
BUT SO ARE THE ...
THE PAIR IS SCARY


SAFE TILE!!


GUH...


タンッ
タンッ
パシッ


I HAVE TO GIVE UP TENPAI!



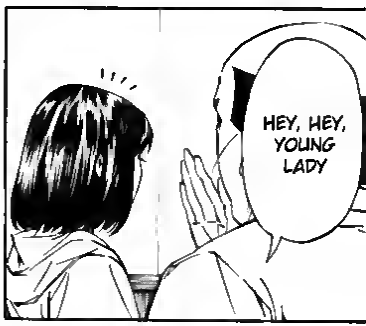
!!

SUR-VIVING IS VICTO-RY!

8000 ALL!!
TSUMO!!
IT'S HUGE
!?
8000 ALL IS AMAZING... BUT WHAT IS THIS, THIS UNEASINESS
THAT IS A FIRST ...
FURITEN RIICHI?

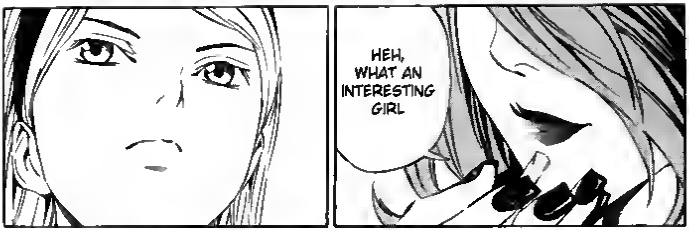
THIS GIRL, DID SHE CHANGE HER PLAY STYLE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME?
OR AM I JUST READING TOO MUCH INTO IT AND IMAGINING THINGS...

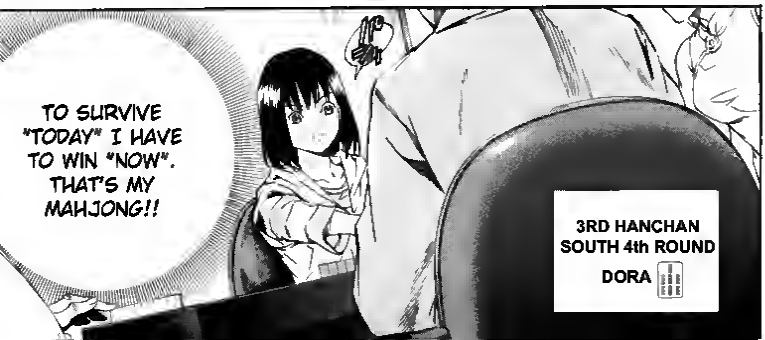
I KNOW YOU'RE FOCUSING ON HIMAWARI-CHAN, BUT
MAHJONG IS A 4-PLAYER GAME

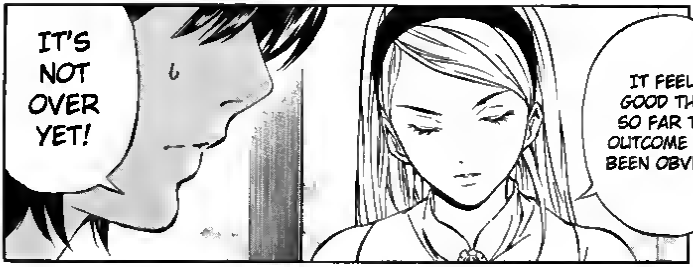

HEY, HEY, YOUNG LADY

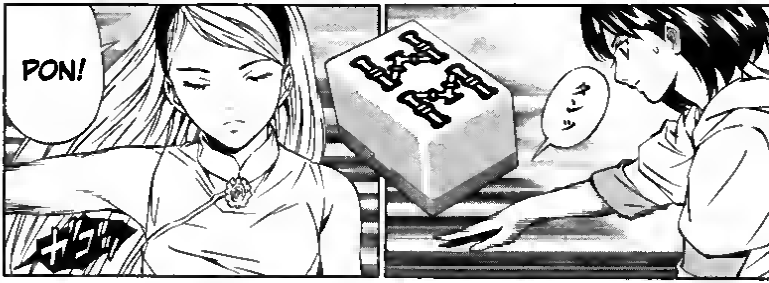
WITH-OUT NOTIC-ING I GOT PULLED INTO HER WORLD
THAT'S RIGHT, THE GRAMPS ARE STRONG TOO

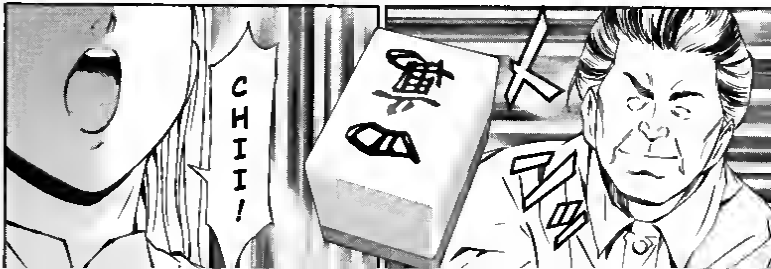
AH


HEH, WHAT AN INTERESTING GIRL


TO SURVIVE "TODAY" I HAVE TO WIN "NOW". THAT'S MY MAHJONG!!
3RD HANCHAN
SOUTH 4th ROUND
DORA

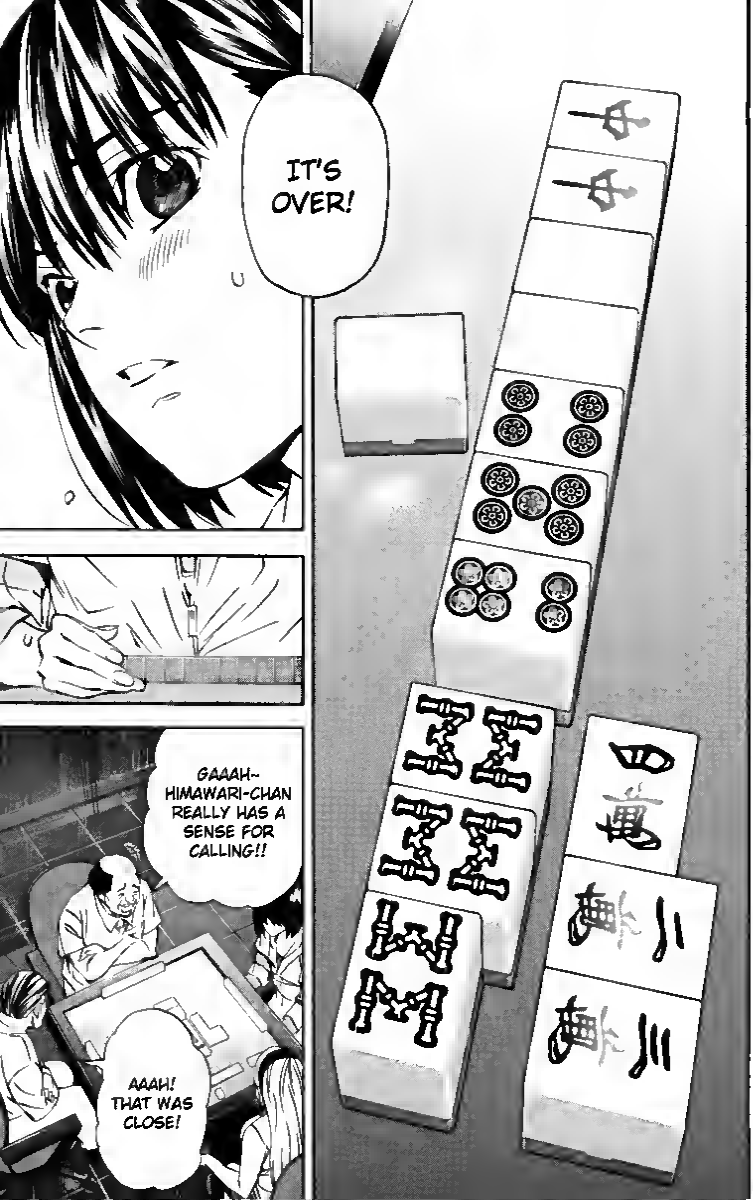

IT'S NOT OVER YET!
IT FEELS GOOD THAT SO FAR THE OUTCOME HAS BEEN OBVIOUS

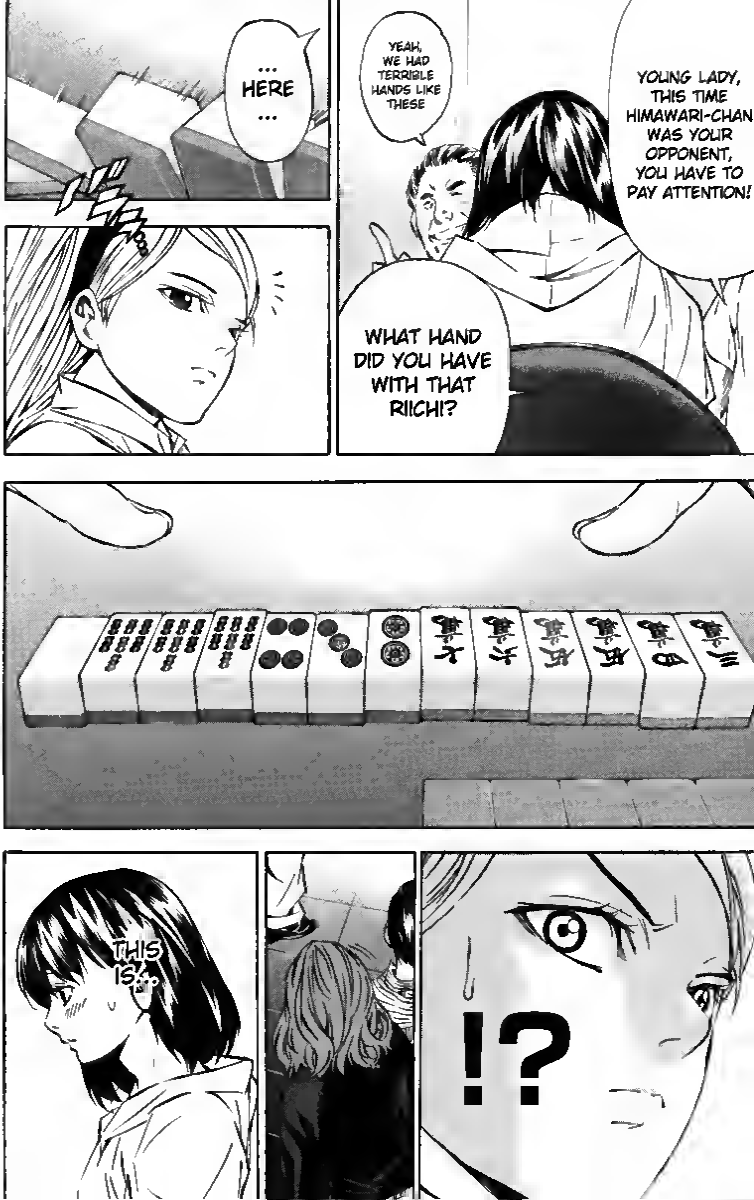

PON!
ポン!!


CHII!

A CALL FROM
?
SHE DEALT THE
I WON'T LET YOU WIN!!
RII-CHI!
RIICHI? YOU GOT A HAND THAT WILL CAUSE AN UPSET?

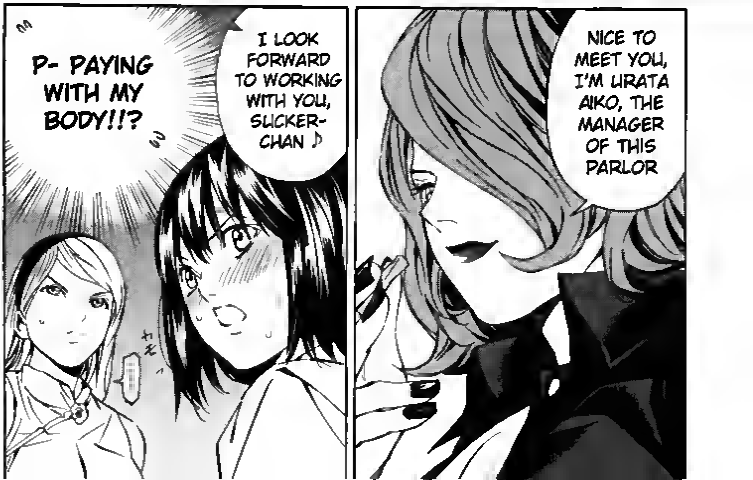
TOO BAD
EH?
I WON'T LET YOU WIN!
TSUMO!!

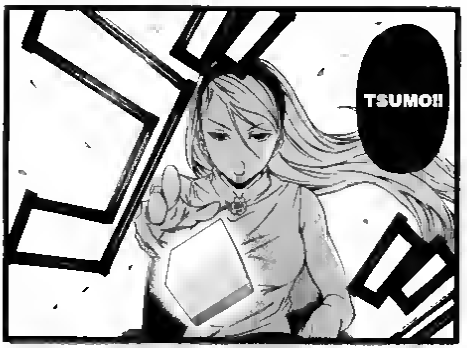

IT'S OVER!
GAAAH~ HIMAWARI-CHAN REALLY HAS A SENSE FOR CALLING!!
AAAH! THAT WAS CLOSE!

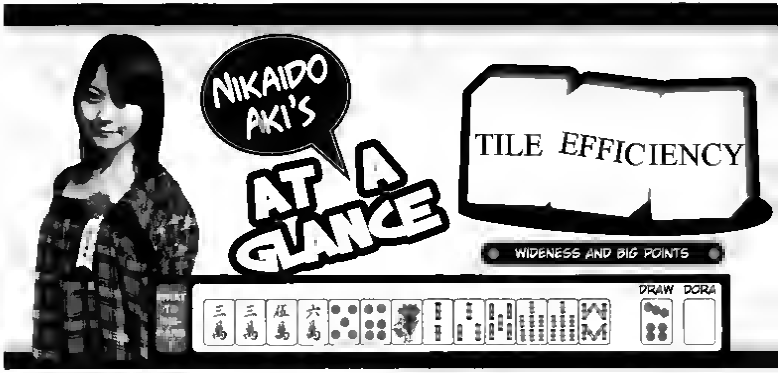

... HERE ...
YEAH, WE HAD TERRIBLE HANDS LIKE THESE
YOUNG LADY, THIS TIME HIMAWARI-CHAN WAS YOUR OPPONENT, YOU HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION!
WHAT HAND DID YOU HAVE WITH THAT RIICHI?
THIS IS...
!?

I AM SORRY
AND TOOK A [redacted] PAIR WAIT!!?
SHE WAS AIMING AT MY PAIR OF BONUS TILES
HA!?
...I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO COVER MY LOSSES...
OOOH, IT'S RARE TO SEE THE A-LEAGUER HERSELF!
A-LEAGUER?
TH-THAT IT'D WORK OUT SOME-HOW...
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING GAMBLING WITHOUT MONEY!?
SOME-HOW!?
CAN'T HELP IT, SHOULD I COVER HER LOSSES?

WELL, COMPARED TO THE OTHER GIRLS, HER BODY IS ALSO LACKING HERE AND THERE
SINCE YOU DON'T HAVE THE MONEY YOU'LL PAY WITH YOUR BODY


P- PAYING WITH MY BODY!!?
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU, SUCKER-CHAN ♪
NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M UBATA AIKO, THE MANAGER OF THIS PARLOR


TSUMO!!



A common hand, isn't it?
If you think it through there is only one answer. It can only be the 4m. When we talk about tile efficiency, we ignore the highest point potentials, the defense and various other mechanisms, and focus only on the speed. So, we have already made our conclusion, but I personally don't want to discard the 4m.
With a hand like this, I would actually discard the 1m. Because by discarding the 4m we throw away two potential Han, it could become a Riichi only hand. But if we discard the 1m we have a guaranteed Pinfu, and if things go smoothly, even a Sanshoku.

Mahjong is beautifully complex

If we discard the 1m and then draw the 7p, we can discard either the 4m or 9m, depending on the circumstances
That's why I think it's better to discard the 1m.
I just said "better", but I emphasize the "I think".
In reality, no one can tell what better is. That's mahjong.
There are no definite answers.
If you think about it, in other sports as well, no theories are ever completely right. But in mahjong tile efficiency, there is a definite answer, but don't feel bad if you got it wrong.

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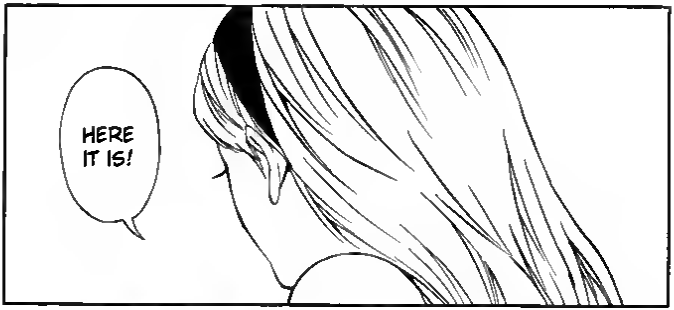
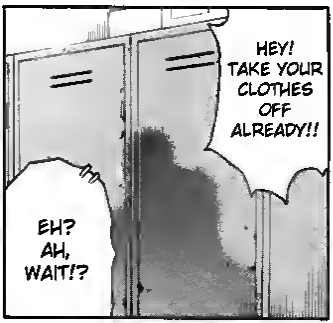
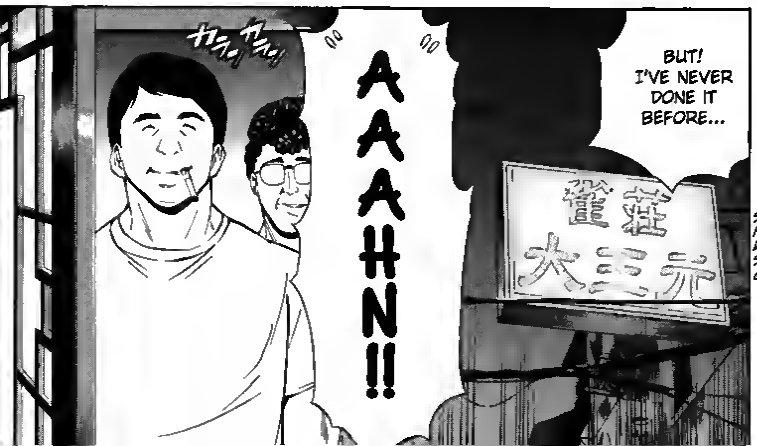
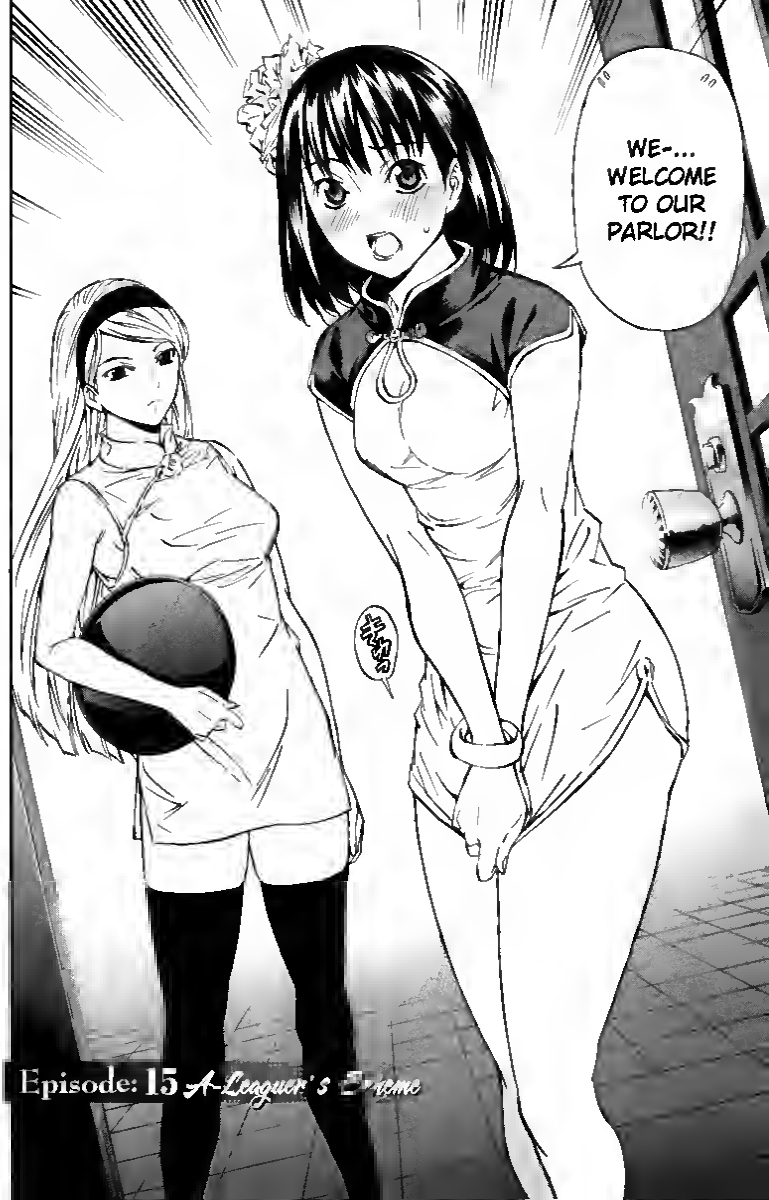

HERE IT IS!

STOP! NO... WAY, THAT'S!!
STOP BICKERING, SUCKER!


HEY! TAKE YOUR CLOTHES OFF ALREADY!!
EH? AH, WAIT!?


AAAHN!!
BUT! I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE...
SIGN PARLOR DAI-SAN-GEN


WE-... WELCOME TO OUR PARLOR!!
Episode: 15 A-Leaguer's [illegible]

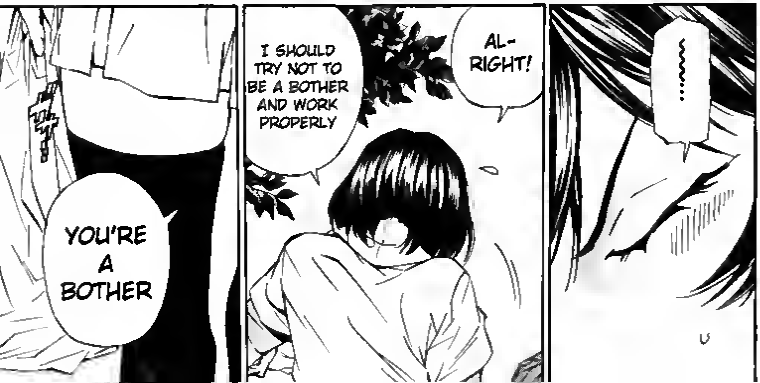
YE-YES!
WET TOWEL!
THIS IS... ANOTHER CUTE EMPLOYEE
UUUGH... WHEN SHE SAID I HAD TO WORK OFF THE MONEY I COULDN'T PAY...
WELL... YEAH...
I HEARD AIKO-SAN GAVE A NEW EMPLOYEE TO HIMAWARI-CHAN FOR TRAINING
SO IT'S TRUE

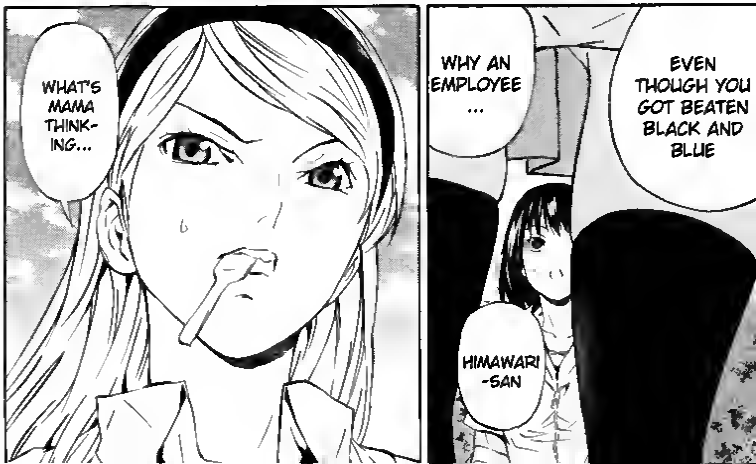
WELL I GUESS YOU COULD WORK HERE FOR A FEW DAYS
MY, MY, YOU LOST A LOT...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HAVE TO BE IN AN OUTFIT LIKE THIS
WITH YOUR BODY
BUT A LOSS IS A LOSS, YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY EVERY LAST PENNY
MANAGER: URATA AIKO

.....
I LEAVE THE REST TO YOU, HIMAWARI
W-... WITH MY BODY!!?

I- I'M WORN OUT...
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I GOT THIS TIRED...

...AN EMPLOYEE, HUH...


YOU'RE A BOTHER
I SHOULD TRY NOT TO BE A BOTHER AND WORK PROPERLY
AL-RIGHT!
.....


WHAT'S MAMA THINK-ING...
HIMAWARI -SAN
WHY AN EMPLOYEE ...
EVEN THOUGH YOU GOT BEATEN BLACK AND BLUE

I'LL QUIT AS SOON AS I PAY OFF MY DEBT
IT WON'T BE MORE THAN 2-3 DAYS FOR SURE...
TOO NAIVE!!
HUH!?
YOU'RE PURER THAN THIS PUDDING!!
TO PAY BACK YOUR DEBT...
YOU'LL DO NOTHING BUT WORK FOR 2 WEEKS!!
EEH!?
THEN I WON'T BE EVEN ABLE TO EAT!!

AL-
THOUGH
AH, I SEE
MAMA ISN'T A MON-
STER
IDIOT, YOU'LL GET MEALS IN THE PARLOR!
BUT RECENTLY
SHE'S NOT EVEN TOUCHING THE TILES
WAY BACK WHEN MAMA USED TO SIT AT THE TABLE, SHE'D TURN INTO A MONSTER
A-LEAGUER?
THOSE ARE THE TROUBLES OF AN "A-LEAGUER" ...

IT'S WHERE THE BEST OF THE BEST PLAYERS ARE
A-LEAGUER
THE JAPANESE PRO MAHJONG ORGANIZATION'S "A-LEAGUE"
ONLY A SMALL FRACTION OF ALL PROS, THOSE WHO CARRY EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH, ARE AFFILIATED WITH IT

THE BEST OF THE BEST...

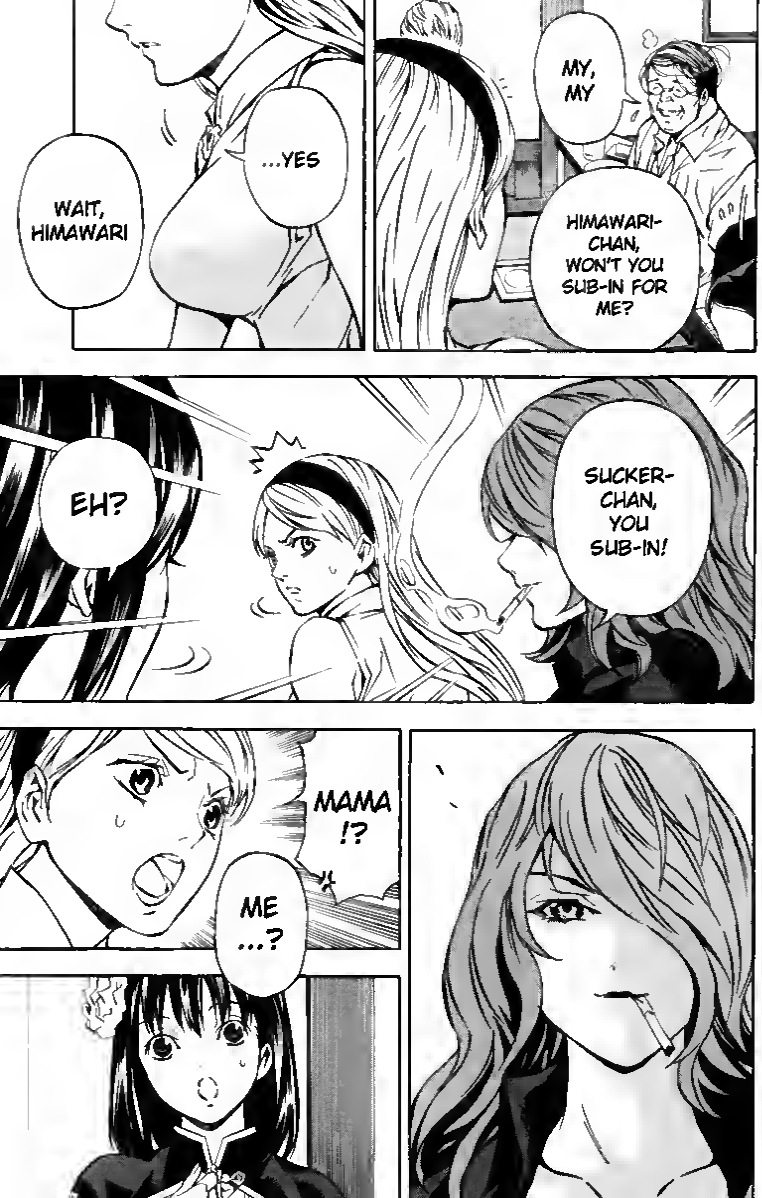
WHEN YOU BECOME STRONG LIKE THAT... DO YOU STOP CARING ABOUT MAHJONG?

はぅ

A- ANYWAY, I'LL BE STRICT TODAY
PRE-PARE YOUR-SELF!
groooh
DON'T RESPOND WITH YOUR STOMACH!

CLEAN THE TOILET!
YES!
雀荘
大三元
NEXT, WIPE THE TABLE!!
YES!
WE RECEIVED AN ORDER FOR YAKISOBA!!
YES!!
コポポ
REPLACE THE WATER IN THE HOUSE SHRINE!!
YEEES~
ガラ
ガラ
……

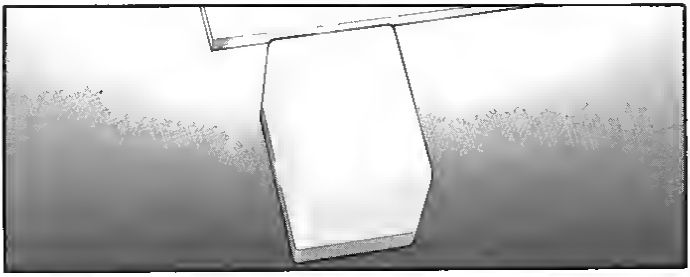
HOW'S IT IT?
HOW'S SUCKER-CHAN DOING?
MAMA ...
AS OF NOW SHE ISN'T READY FOR PLAYING YET
YOUR WET TOWEE-
BUT SHE'S DOING FINE WITH THE ROUTINE TASKS
HOT!!
...I TAKE THAT BACK...
I'M SORRY !


MY, MY
HIMAWARI-CHAN, WON'T YOU SUB-IN FOR ME?
...YES
WAIT, HIMAWARI
SUCKER-CHAN, YOU SUB-IN!
EH?
MAMA !?
ME ...?

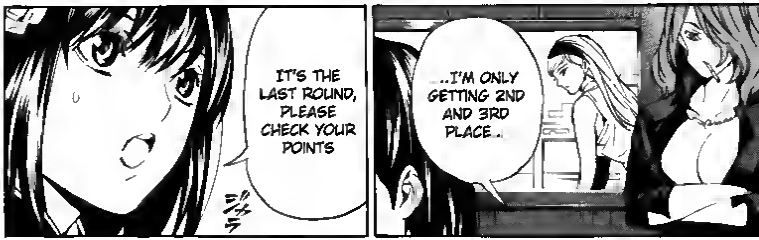
"THE SUCKER'S REDEMP-TION"
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE IT?
ギギ!!!

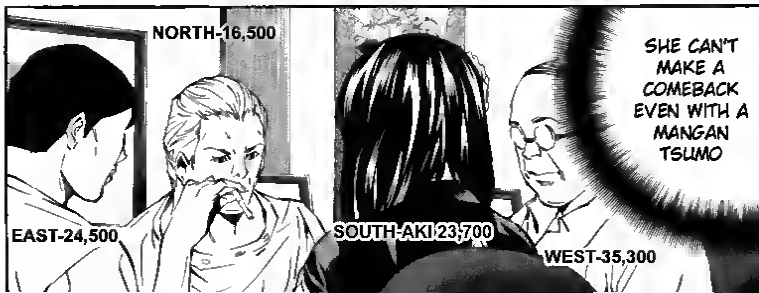
OUR SUCKER-CHAN IS THE FIRST DEALER

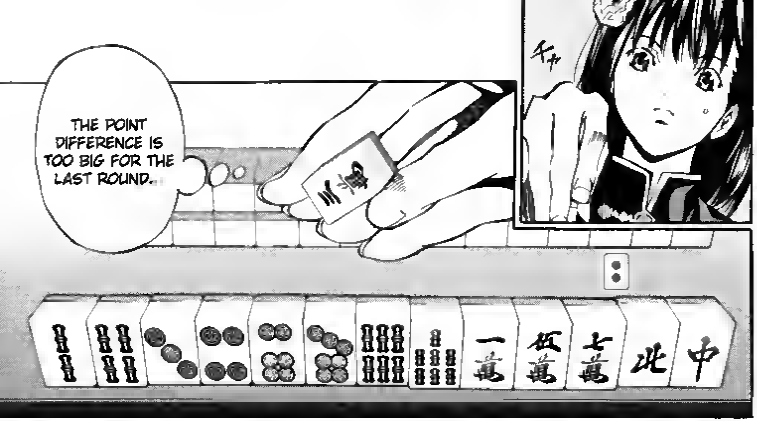
THIS..?
WHAT...
IS...
MAMA NEVER CARED FOR OUTSIDERS...
WHAT DOES SHE SEE IN THAT GIRL...
FIRST-TIME EMPLOY-EE
A PURE WHITE...
START...
FIRST-TIME SUB-IN!!



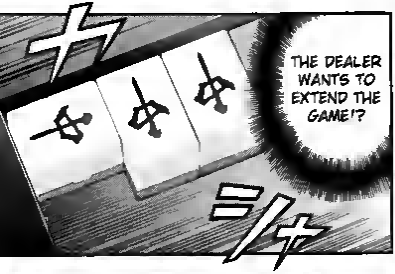
タンソ
バシッ
雀荘
大三元


IT'S THE LAST ROUND, PLEASE CHECK YOUR POINTS
ニヤッ
..I'M ONLY GETTING 2ND AND 3RD PLACE..


NORTH-16,500
EAST-24,500
SOUTH-AKI 23,700
WEST-35,300
SHE CAN'T MAKE A COMEBACK EVEN WITH A MANGAN TSUMO


THE POINT DIFFERENCE IS TOO BIG FOR THE LAST ROUND..

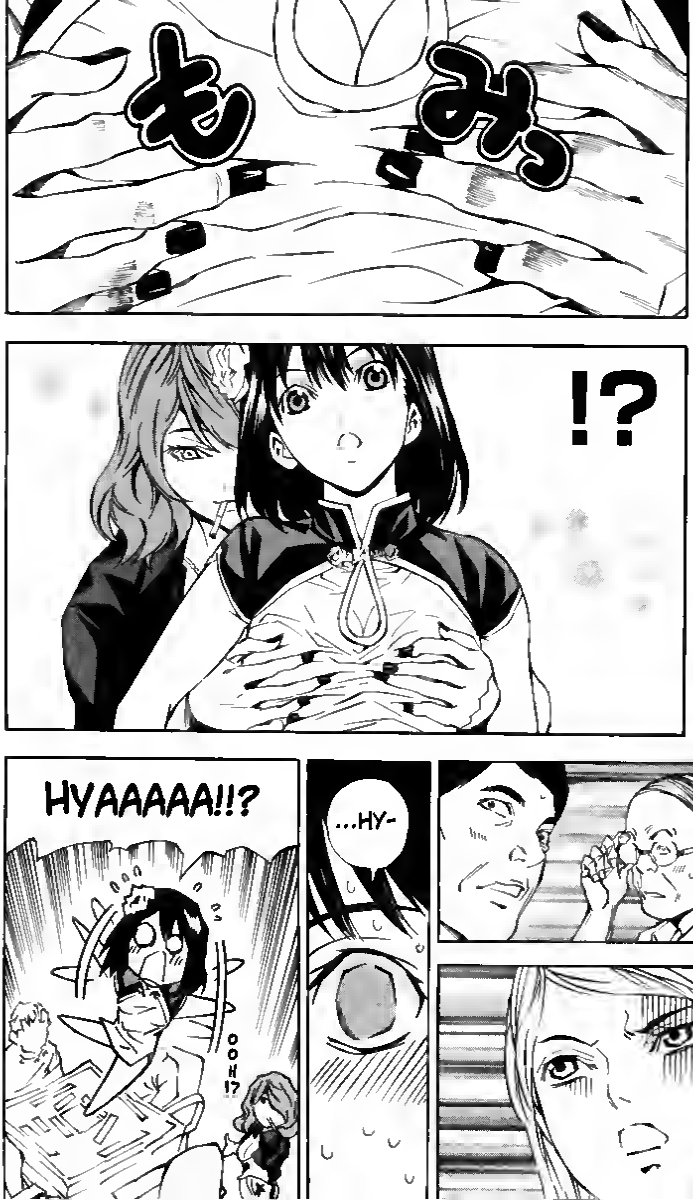
PON!


THE DEALER WANTS TO EXTEND THE GAME!?

TO SECURE MY 2ND PLACE!!
AT LEAST I SHOULD GO FOR TANYAO DORA 1

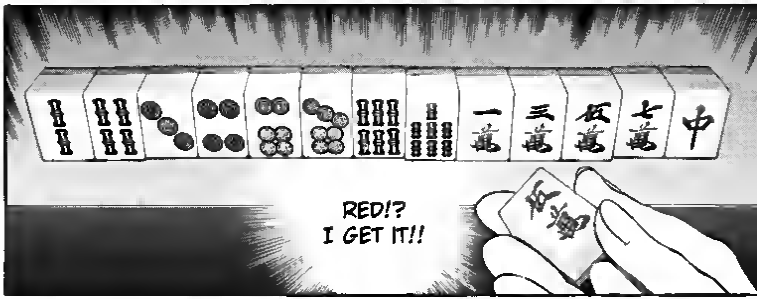
THERE'S THE !!
CHI-...

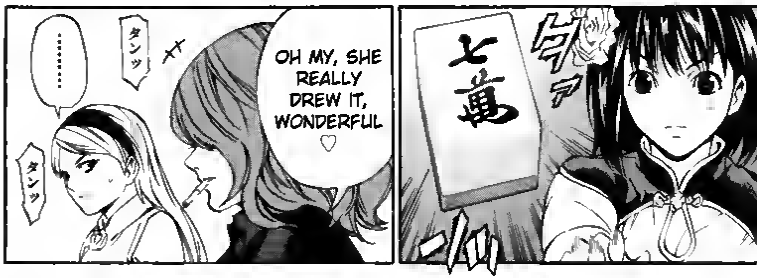
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO HURRY!

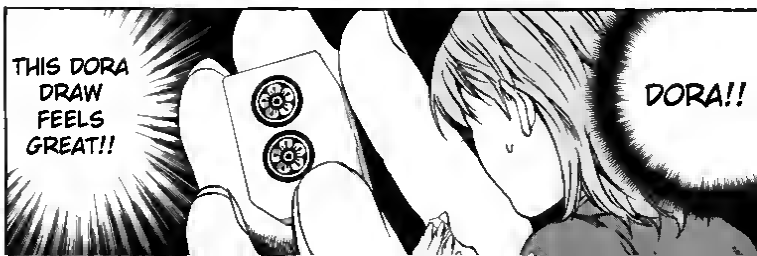

もみっ
!?
HYAAAAA!!?
OOH!?
...HY-

HMMM. IF HIMAWARI AND I ARE HOLSTEINS
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
YOU'RE MORE OF A GUERNSEY COW, AREN'T YOU?
にぎ
にぎ
YOU'RE TOO INEXPE-RIENCED
IT'S SAME WITH YOUR MAHJONG
THAT MAHJONG WON'T WORK
WAIT UNTIL THE 6TH TURN
IF YOUR MOST DESIRED TILE DOESN'T COME, THEN FEEL FREE TO CALL
?
COINCIDENTALLY, EVEN THOUGH THE GUERNSEY COW HAS SMALLER ONES, ITS MILK IS OF A VERY HIGH QUALITY♡
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!!
6TH TURN
...THE TILE I DESIRE THE MOST...
DORA
?

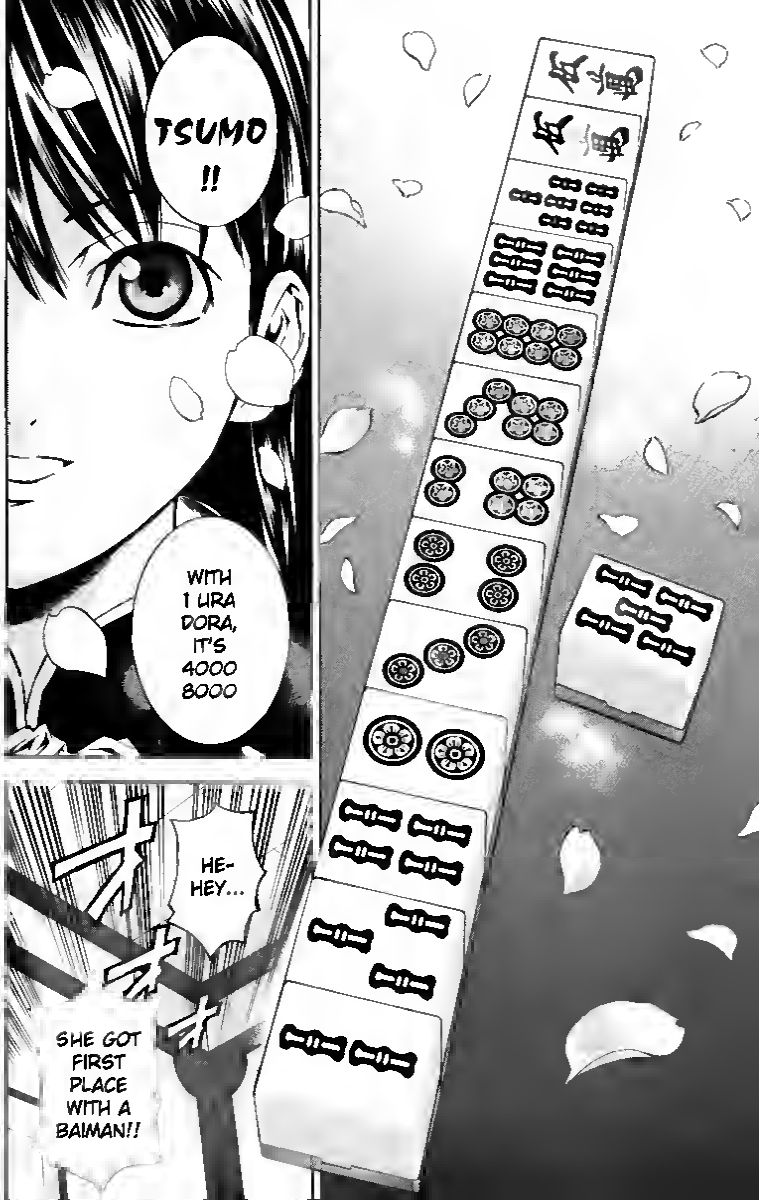
伍萬


一萬
三萬
伍萬
七萬
中
RED!?
I GET IT!!

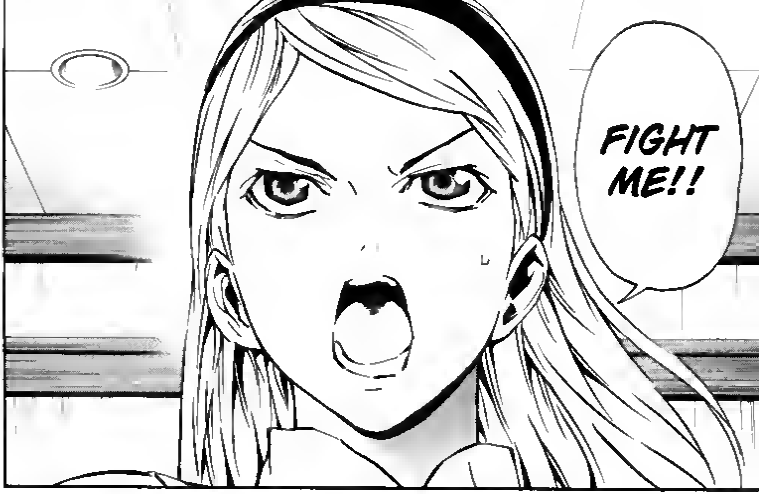

タンッ
……
タンッ
OH MY, SHE REALLY DREW IT, WONDERFUL ♡
七萬
ゴクッ

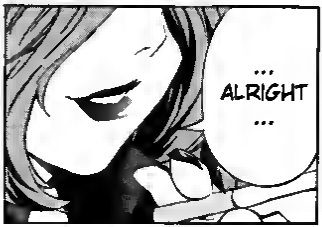

THIS DORA DRAW FEELS GREAT!!
DORA!!

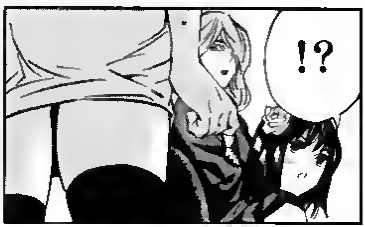
I HAVE TO PUSH IT!!
RII-CHI!
EH?
YEP... SHE PULLED IT
タンッ
INTO HER WORLD ...


TSUMO !!
WITH 1 URA DORA, IT'S 4000 8000
HE-HEY...
SHE GOT FIRST PLACE WITH A BAIMAN!!

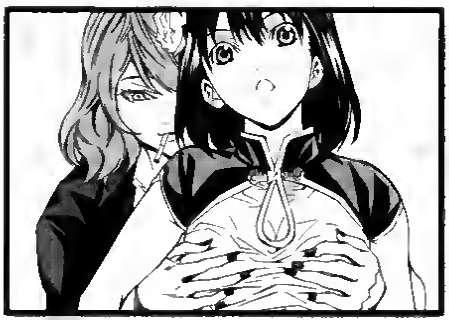
THAT'S RIGHT, BEING FIRST PLACE IN MAHJONG IS WHAT MATTERS
IF YOU'RE 2ND PLACE, NO ONE WILL REMEMBER YOU. ENGRAVE THAT INTO YOUR HEART
IS THIS THE REASONING OF AN A-LEAGUER!?
AMAZING!! I WON JUST LIKE SHE SAID!
SUCKER - CHAN!!
.....
MAMA...
TH- THE OVERALL WINNER IS THE HOUSE! SORRY EVERYONE!!
WHAT DO YOU SAY!?
EH
AH ...!

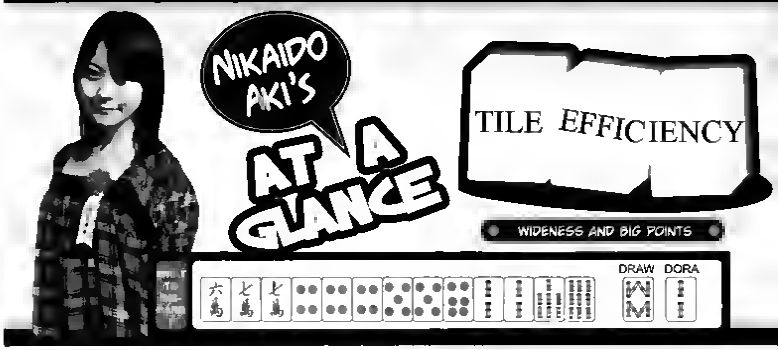

FIGHT ME!!


...
ALRIGHT
...


!?

!!?
I'LL SEND IN MY REP-PLAYER ♪





Well, what should we discard from the example above?
The answer is
It will make our hand wider, we can get more points, and we get a strong hand.

If we discard the , we can get tenpai with the lower tiles.
we're waiting for 8 types of tiles, 24 in total.
Furthermore, if we draw the it's Pinfu Iipeikou Dora Dora.
If we draw the , our higher out will be Pinfu Iipeikou Dora Dora again.
If we draw the it's just Pinfu, end in the worst case scenario it turns into a Riichi Dora Dora hand. Isn't it quite good?
On the other hand, let's see what happens if we discard the pinzu tiles first instead. Discarding the we have
waiting for 6 types of tiles and 19 in total for tenpai.

Let's Think Tile Efficiency

Discarding the , it's , 6 types, 17 total for tenpai.
When we put it like this, the answer is very clear, isn't it?
Discarding the is without a doubt the best discard here.
Discarding the is the worst option, we decrease our chance for Iipeikou, and the tiles we are waiting on also decrease.
If you encounter this shape in a real game, don't forget whet you've learned here.
"If you have complex shapes like the 3 sided wait+2 sided wait and the 2 sided wait+pair, then secure the 2 sided wait", if you remember that, you should be able to cope with a hand like this without any panic.

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Editing: xGeo
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THE SUMMER FLOWER CALLED "SUNFLOWER" KEEPS TURNING AS IF IT'S CHASING THE SUN
THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED "HIMAWARI" ...
T/N: HI- SUN + MAWARI- TURNING
WHAT IS THIS!? THIS AIN'T A PLACE FOR CHILDREN!!
HAA
HAA
カリッ
鳳凰
POSTER: HOUOU- CHINESE PHOENIX

Episode: 16 *The World is Mine*

THIS MATCH DECIDES WHO WILL GET TO THE A-LEAGUE
THE DEALER JUST NEEDS NOTEN IN THIS LAST ROUND
鳳凰戦
主催 日本プロ麻雀連盟
POSTER: HOUOU CUP
SPONSORED BY JAPANESE PRO MAHJONG LEAGUE
YEAH... SHE NEEDS A MANGAN DIRECT HIT OR HANEMAN TSUMO
IT'S HARSH, BUT GAMBLING IS A MAN'S WORLD AFTER ALL
ON THE OTHER HAND 2ND PLACE URATA AIKO IS IN A TOUGH SPOT
DORA
タンッ
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR A WOMAN TO BECOME AN A-LEAGUER...
NO IT'S NOT!!

MAMA WON'T LOSE TO ANYONE!
BECAUSE MAMA IS STRONG!!
SHH --
HI-MIWARI ...
チャ
OH MY!

TANYAO SANSHOKU DORA DORA
A HANEMAN TSUMO!!?
I WONDER IF IT'S HERE?
NOW AN UPSET IS POSSIBLE
...EH?
WITH A RIICHI-TSUMO SHE WILL GET PROMOTED!!
THERE IT IS TENPAI!!

...WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
A MIS-PLAY?
?
THE ARE ALL USED UP
A SANSHOKU HAS NO WINNING TILES LEFT...
.....
IF I DRAW A BAIMAN I'LL GET FIRST PLACE... SOMEHOW I WILL...
北
タンッ
FIRST PLACE IS FOLDING, GETTING A MANGAN DIRECT HIT ON HIM IS HOPELESS
IN WHICH CASE, I'LL AIM FOR...

RII-
CHI!!
IS IT ENOUGH FOR A HANEMAN TSUMO!?
OH!? NOT A SANSHOKU BUT A TANYAO PINFU DORA DORA!?
THIS IS BAD... DID SHE GET A COME-BACK HAND!?

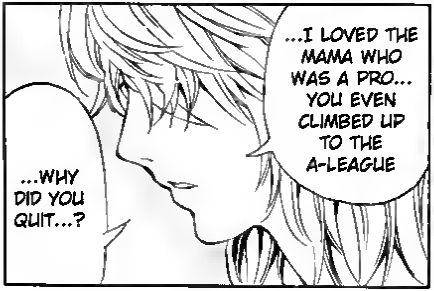
MAMA WILL BECOME THE BEST IN THE A-LEAGUE FOR SURE... IS WHAT I THOUGHT
HOWEVER... A SHORT WHILE AFTER, MAMA DISAPPEARED FROM THE PRO SCENE...

WHY WON'T YOU FIGHT ME .. MAMA
ARE YOU SCARED ...?
YOU'RE JUST RUNNING AWAY...

IF THAT WASN'T THE CASE YOU WOULDN'T SEND IN SUCKER-CHAN AS YOUR REP-PLAYER!
OH, ARE YOU PERHAPS JEAL-OUS?
I JUST DISAGREE ABOUT HER SUBBING-IN!
I HATE IT WHEN THINGS ARE UNCLEAR!!
IT'S THIS LATE ALREADY, LET'S GO YOU TWO
湯

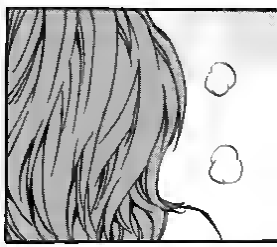
カコーン!
THIS PLACE IS OPEN UNTIL MIDNIGHT, ISN'T IT?
...WHY ARE WE AT A BATH-HOUSE AT THIS HOUR?
DON'T CHANGE THE TOPIC
SO LONG SINCE I TOOK A BATH ♪
HOL-STEIN!!
MILK PUD-DING!!
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE WE TOOK A BATH TOGETHER.
LIAR...
I JUST HATE YOU MORE
BY THE WAY.. HIMAWARI, YOU LIKE MAHJONG?
HATE IT!
?

JUST LIKE THE TIME WHEN I WAS A PRO
I CAN TELL BY WATCHING HER PLAY


...I LOVED THE MAMA WHO WAS A PRO... YOU EVEN CLIMBED UP TO THE A-LEAGUE
...WHY DID YOU QUIT...?

...I'M SURE OF IT

IN SUCKER-CHAN?
WHAT IF IT'S...



THE ANSWER

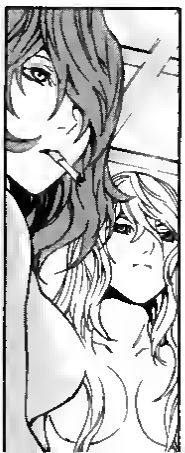
IF YOU MANAGE TO DO THAT, I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING
TRY BEATING THIS GIRL
OK, WHATEVER YOU WANT. SUCKER-CHAN ISN'T FIT FOR BEING YOUR REP-PLAYER
I WILL PROVE THAT TO YOU
!?
... REALLY ...

YOU'LL REGRET PICKING HER, MAMA!
IT'S A REMATCH, SUCKER-CHAN!
...MUST BE NICE BEING ABLE TO QUARREL WITH YOUR MOTHER...
?
HUHU.. WE'LL SEE
AH, NOTHING, NEVER MIND

I... WILL BE HER REP-PLAYER!!

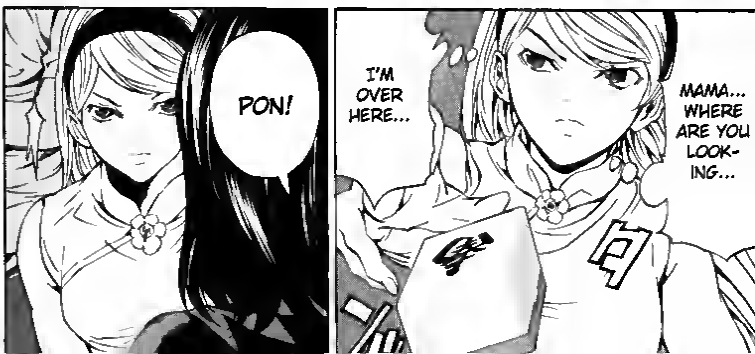
HEY, THE NEW GIRL IS AIKO'S REP-PLAYER!
雀荘
大三元
ARE YOU SERIOUS!?

GUERNSEY COW...

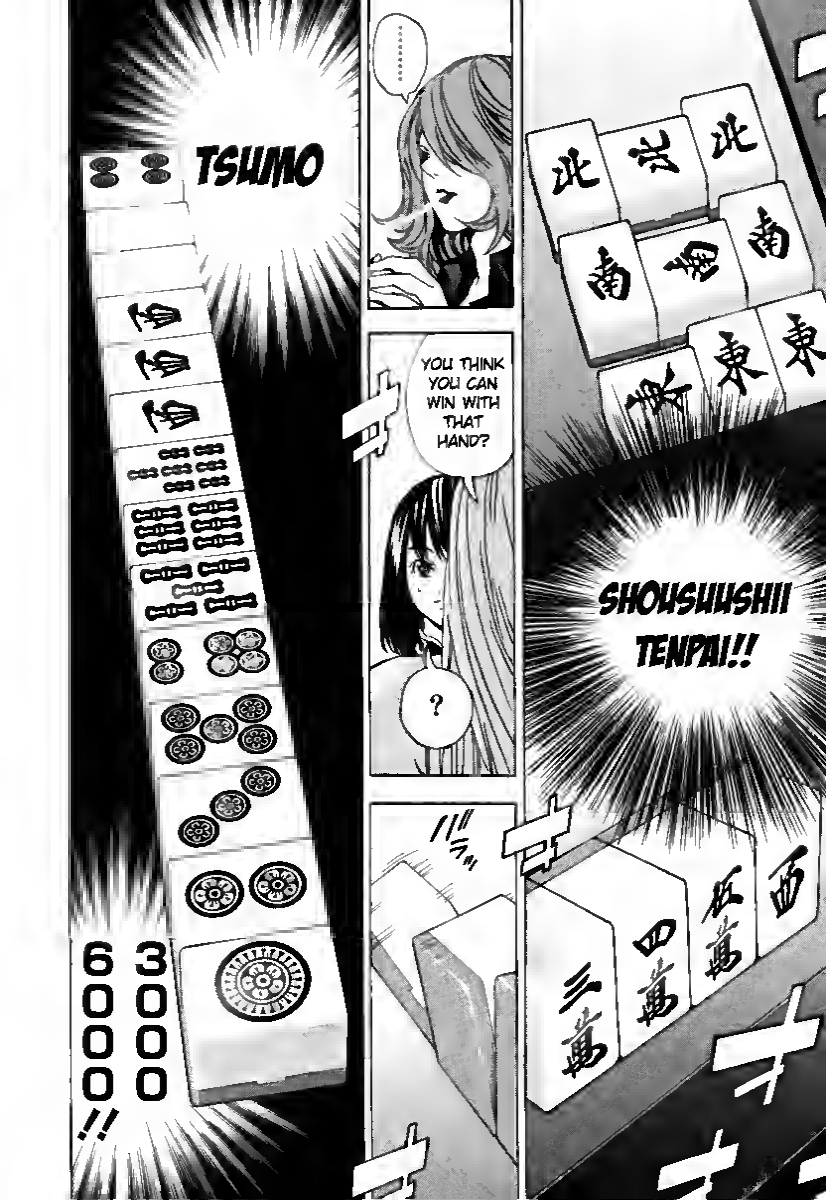


THAT'LL BE INTEREST-ING!

タンッ
パシッ

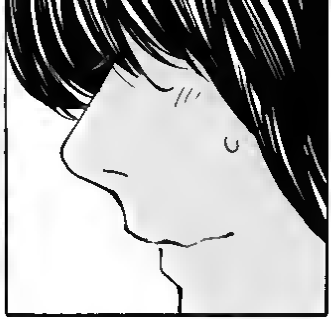

PON!
I'M OVER HERE...
MAMA... WHERE ARE YOU LOOK-ING...

A CHEAP HAND? OR IS IT SHOUSUU-SHII?
PON!!
NO WAY, IS IT REALLY...
RIICHI!!
NOT GOING TO HAPP-EN!!

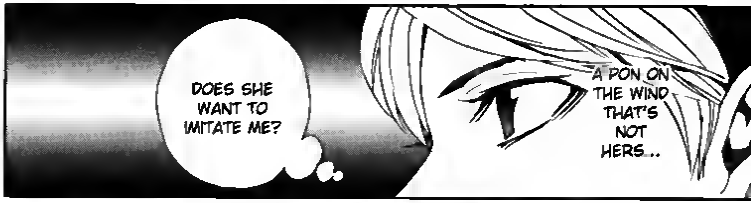

TSUMO
3000
6000!!
.....
YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN WITH THAT HAND?
?
SHOUSUUSHII TENPAI!!

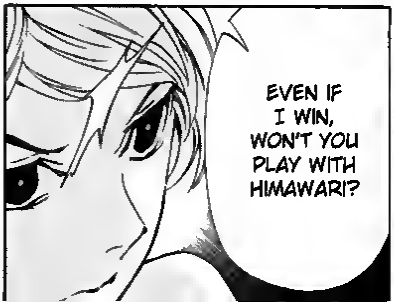
...SO YOU HAD A 3 TRIPLET..
OTHERWISE I WOULDN'T HAVE CALLED RIICHI WITH THE 北
FOR A CHANCE YOU NEED SPEED AND THE COURAGE TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP
WITH THAT THIS TABLE IS MINE!!
HOW IS IT? MAMA!!

EAST 2nd ROUND
DORA
タンッ
タンッ



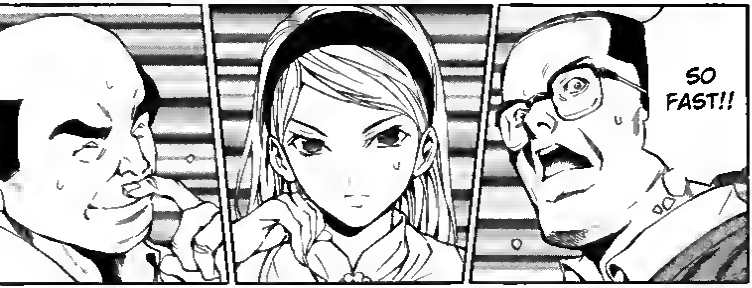
PON!
カシャ


DOES SHE WANT TO IMITATE ME?
A PON ON THE WIND THAT'S NOT HERS..


EVEN IF I WIN, WON'T YOU PLAY WITH HIMAWARI?

AIKO-SAN, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK

TSUMO
1,300
2,600


SO FAST!!

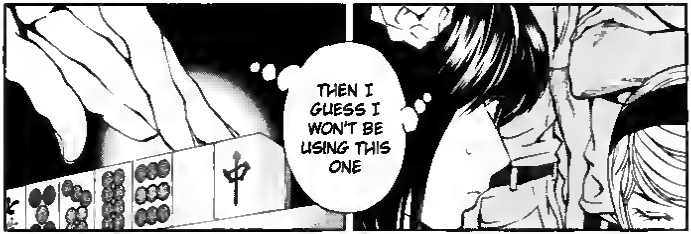
タンッ
THAT... MEANS...
BEING A REP-PLAYER
パシッ

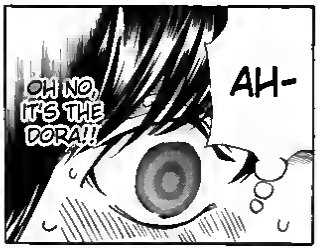
TSUMO !!
I HAVE TO WIN !!
1,300
2,600

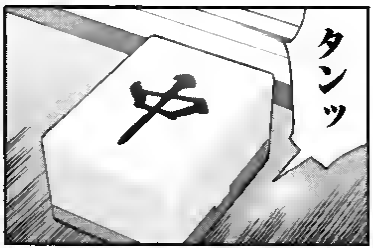
THE FLOW IS GOING TO SUCKER-CHAN...
SHE KEPT THE SOUZU WITH A HAND LIKE THAT!?

...IN...
.....
RIICHI!!
THAT CASE...
TSUMO!!
IF I CAN SUPPRESS HER BEFORE SHE GETS ALL THE FLOW WITH CHEAP WINS, IT'LL BE MY VICTORY!!

I HAVE TO HURRY IF I WANT TO WIN?
...I'M FEELING UNCOMFORTABLE AGAIN...

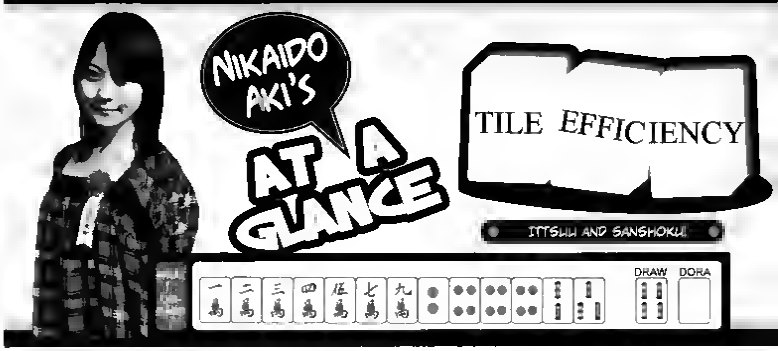

THEN I GUESS I WON'T BE USING THIS ONE


AH-
OH NO, IT'S THE DORA!!


タンッ

PON

IT'S A REMATCH, SUCKER-CHAN!



In the example above, to improve our hand it would be 8p.
If we draw either the 7m or 9m we can Riichi, this is the ideal course of events.
If mahjong was a game only about speed, it would be quite simple and fairly boring, wouldn't it?
But in real mahjong, the points make all the difference.
So, let's go back to the example above.
If we're aiming for high points, what should we discard?
The answer is 1m.
This hand has potential for for Ikkitsuukan and Sanshoku.
However, we can't have both.

An established tactic since the ancient times

For example, we can discard the 8p, but it would considerably slow down the hand for Sanshoku so it's out of the question.
Deciding on which Yaku to give up here is not an easy choice. At a time like this, we remember the ancient legend. It says "Aim for Sanshoku over Ittsuu".
Sanshoku and Ittsuu are both worth 2 Han, but in mahjong there is a nice Yaku called Tanyao that's easy to make, and it's not compatible with Ikkitsuukan.
If we go for Sanshoku we can follow up with another Han for Tanyao, but if we go for Ikkitsuukan, we have to keep the 1 and 9 so Tanyao becomes impossible.
Considering all this, just as the ancient saying goes, a Sanshoku is more advantageous than Ikkitsuukan in this situation.

aki

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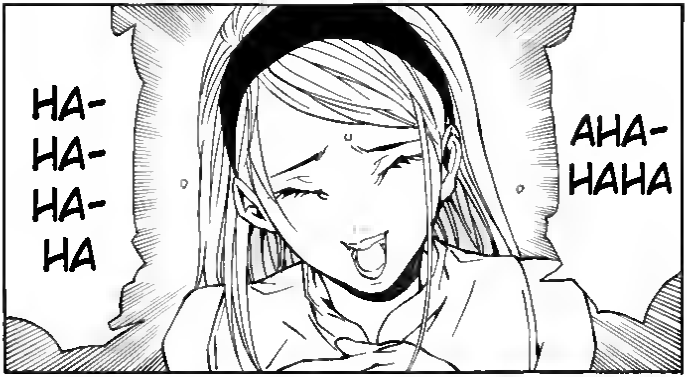
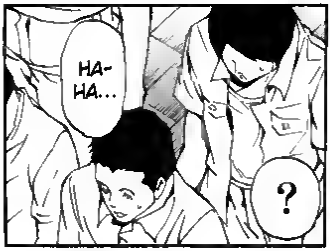
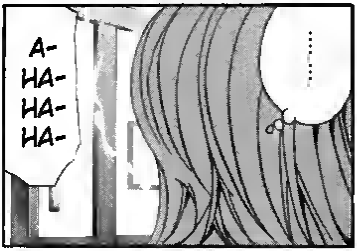
OH NO!!
I LET OUT
THE DORA!!
AND...
AND SHE
CALLED IT!!
MY,
MY
...?
HIMAWARI-
CHAN?
HUHU...
HUHU.
HA-...


HA-
HA-
HA-
HA
AHA-
HAHA


HA-
HA...
?

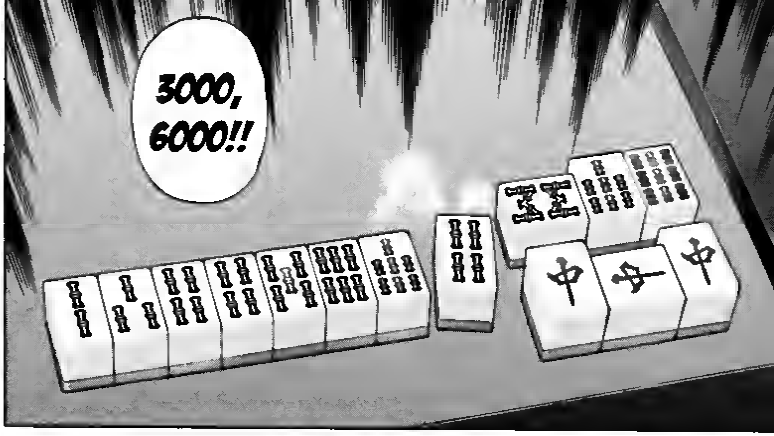

A-
HA-
HA-
HA-
.....

UHM...
EXCUSE
ME

...BUT,
YOU
KNOW

GEEZ,
HOW
COULD YOU
MAKE A
MISPLAY
LIKE THIS!
YOU
REALLY
ARE A
SUCKER
AFTER
ALL!

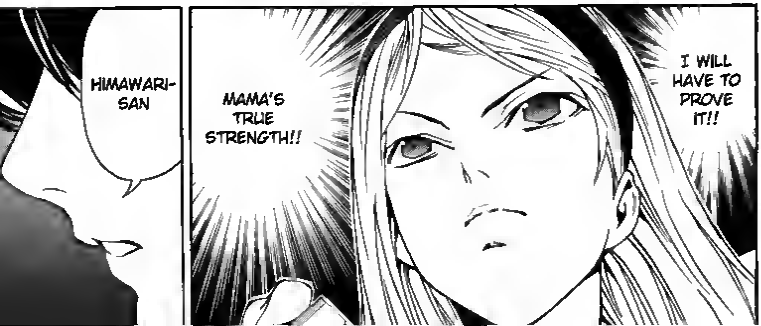
EH?
MAHJONG ISN'T ABOUT THAT
GETTING HELPED OUT AT A MOMENT LIKE THIS
WAS ACTU-ALLY ME
THE ONE WHO WAS MISPLAYING UP UNTIL NOW
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT SUCKER-CHAN DRAWING IN ALL THE FLOW HAD ME WORRIED
タンッ
LET'S GO TO THE LAST ROUND
TSUMO!!
SO, WITH MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE...

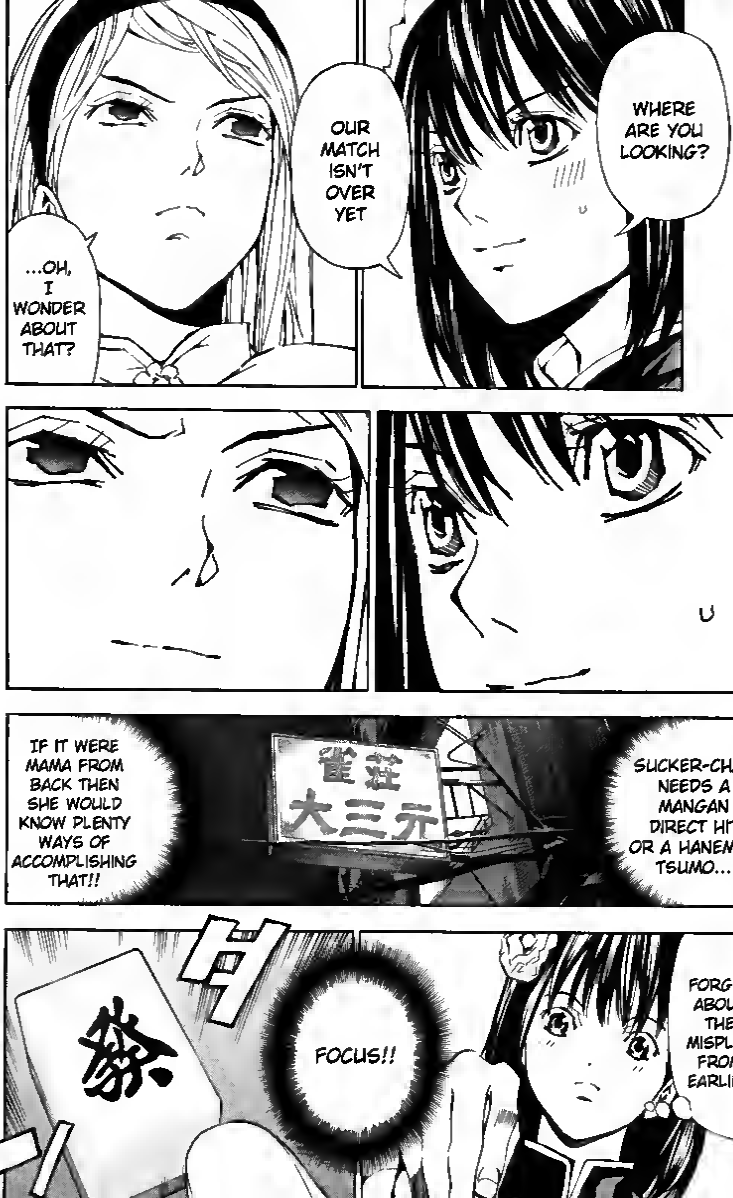


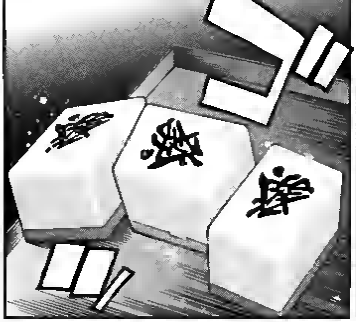
Episode: 17 Starts Like These

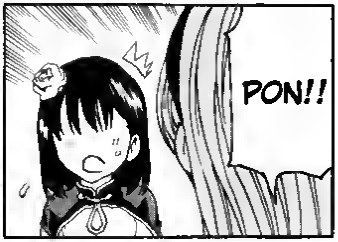
SOUTH 4th ROUND
DEALER-AKI
DORA
EAST
29,500
SOUTH
7,300
NORTH
11,300
WEST
51,900

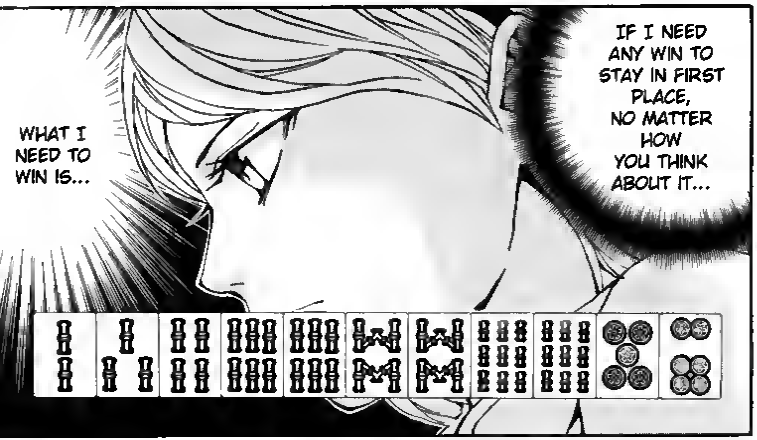
...THAT'S RIGHT, IF MAMA WON'T PLAY
AS EXPECTED OF THE DAUGHTER OF AN EX-A-LEAGUER
HIMAWARI-CHAN IS FAR AHEAD


HIMAWARI-SAN
MAMA'S TRUE STRENGTH!!
I WILL HAVE TO PROVE IT!!


WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING?
OUR MATCH ISN'T OVER YET
...OH, I WONDER ABOUT THAT?
雀荘
大三元
IF IT WERE MAMA FROM BACK THEN SHE WOULD KNOW PLENTY WAYS OF ACCOMPLISHING THAT!!
SUCKER-CHAN NEEDS A MANGAN DIRECT HIT OR A HANEMAN TSUMO...
FOCUS!!
FORGET ABOUT THE MISPLAY FROM EARLIER

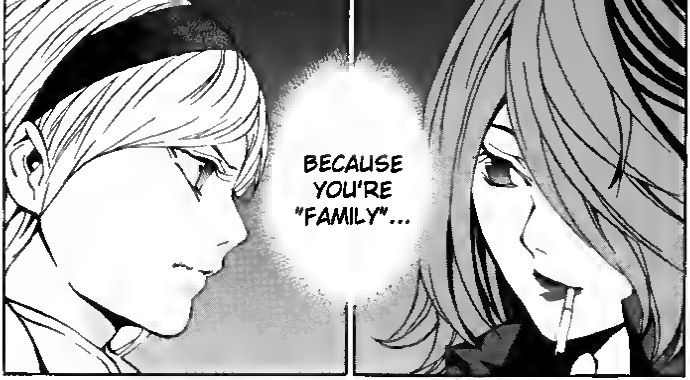


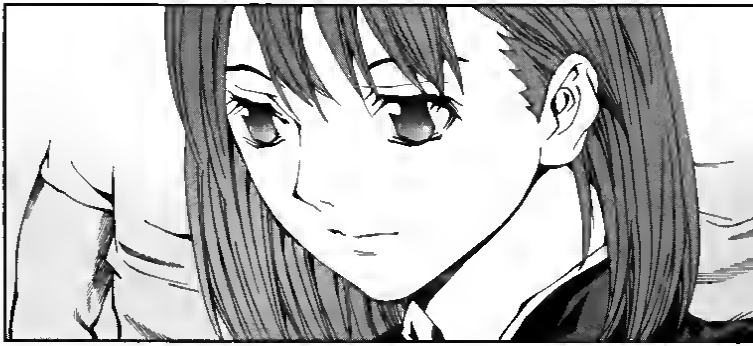

PON!!


IF I NEED ANY WIN TO STAY IN FIRST PLACE, NO MATTER HOW YOU THINK ABOUT IT...
WHAT I NEED TO WIN IS...

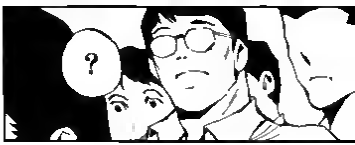
AIKO-SAN... WHILE PRETENDING TO WATCH ME YOU'RE ACTUALLY WATCHING HIMAWARI THE WHOLE TIME!
SO IT'S THAT WAY AFTER ALL

PIN-ZU!!
.....


BECAUSE YOU'RE "FAMILY"...



O-OK
ビクッ!!
キョトー
HURRY UP, SUCKER-CHAN!!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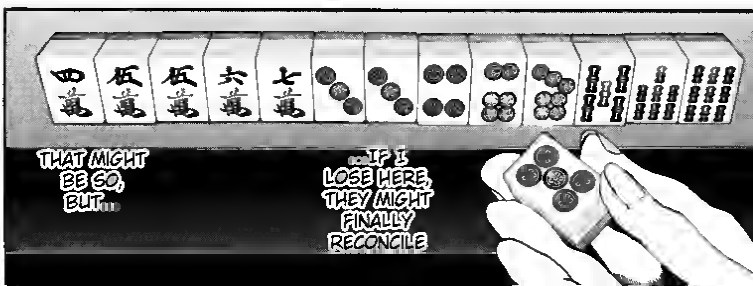
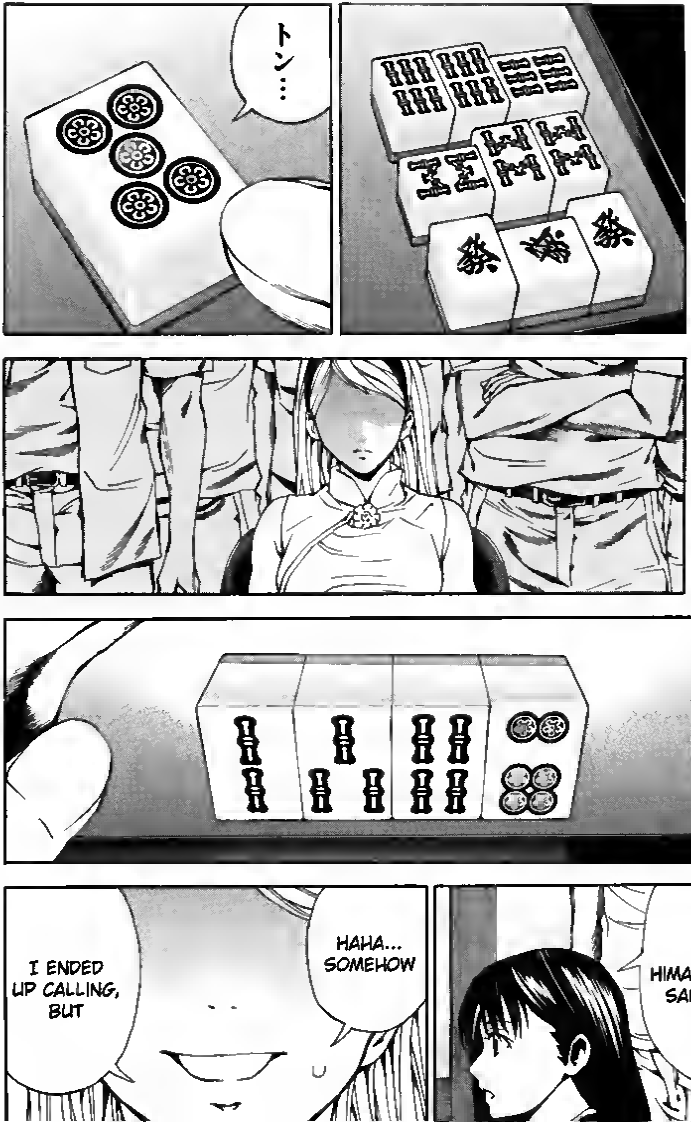

四萬
伍萬
伍萬
六萬
七萬
THAT MIGHT BE SO, BUT...
IF I LOSE HERE, THEY MIGHT FINALLY RECONCILE

THAT'S RIGHT, BEING FIRST PLACE IN MAHJONG IS WHAT MATTERS
IF YOU'RE 2ND PLACE, NO ONE WILL REMEMBER YOU. ENGRAVE THAT INTO YOUR HEART
THAT'S WHAT MAHJONG IS ALL ABOUT
I CAN'T LIE TO MYSELF ABOUT THIS FEELING
IN MAH-JONG I ENJOY FIGHT-ING FOR VICTORY

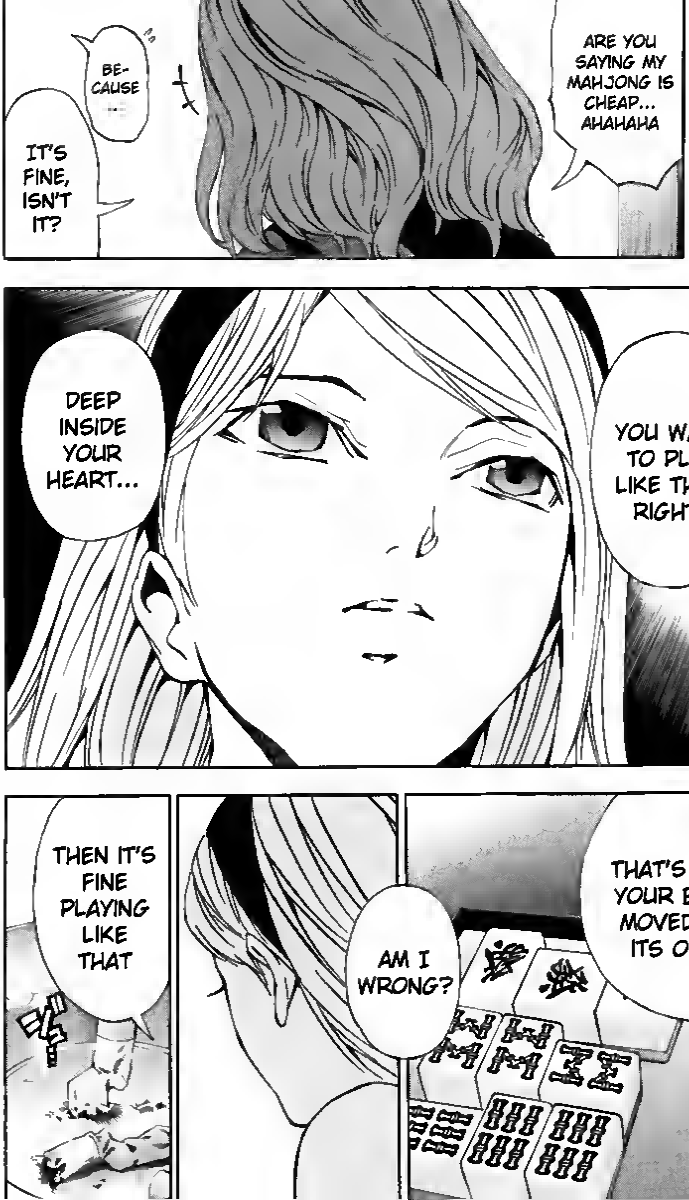
SHE'S CASUALLY DISCARDING... BUT THE WAY SHE'S HANDLING THE TILES
HAS IT CHANGED?
PON!
MAMA AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO'VE NOTICED IT
I'M GOING TO CRUSH YOU WITH ALL MY STRENGTH!
HOWEVER, I'M IN TENPAI!!

!!
NOT YET
タン…
……

PON!!
CHI-…
!?


トン…
I ENDED UP CALLING, BUT
HAHA... SOMEHOW
HIMAWARI-SAN...?

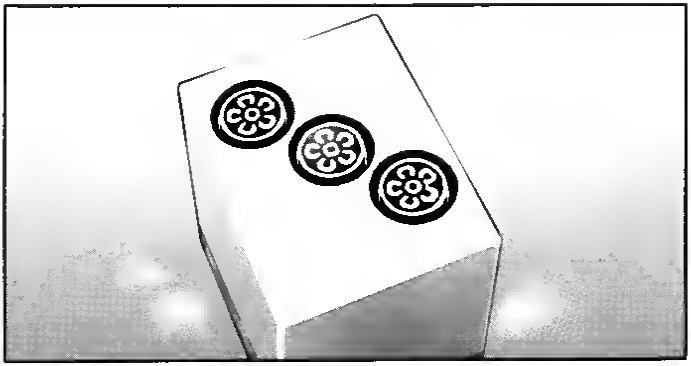
INSTEAD OF A CHEAP WIN
THIS WAY MIGHT BE MORE LIKE ME...
AHA-HAHA-HAHA
HA-HA-HA-HA
HEY, HEY, EVEN AIKO-SAN?
WHAT'S WITH THESE TWO TODAY?
...
...HUHU...
HUHU...

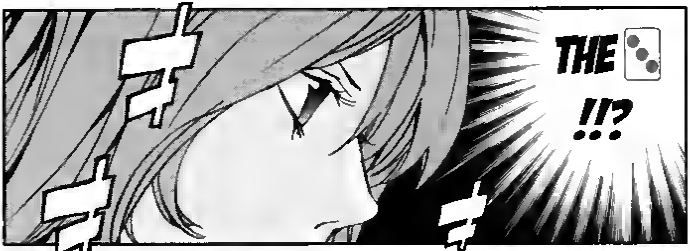

ARE YOU SAYING MY MAHJONG IS CHEAP... AHAHAHA
BE-CAUSE...
IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT?
YOU WANT TO PLAY LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
DEEP INSIDE YOUR HEART...
THAT'S WHY YOUR BODY MOVED ON ITS OWN
AM I WRONG?
THEN IT'S FINE PLAYING LIKE THAT

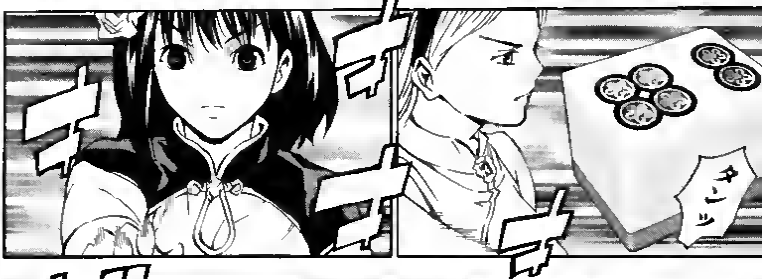
YOU'RE NOT THE DAUGHTER OF AN A-LEAGUER
YOU'RE URATA HIMAWARI...
THAT
I KNOW!
AL-RIGHT!

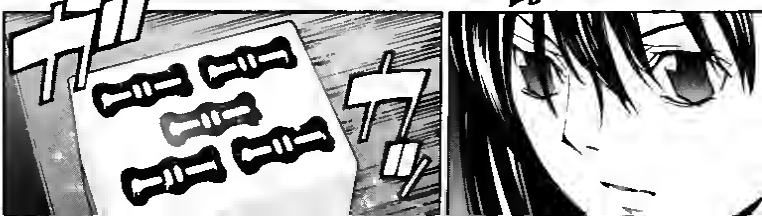
WILL DO WHAT I CAN!!
I, TOO...
THIS HAND...
SUCK ER-CHAN
!
IT'S JUST LIKE BACK THEN...
MEANING OF THIS
A MIS PLAY?
YEAH, SHE NEEDS A MANGAN DIRECT HIT OR HANEMAN TSUMO
FOR SOME REASON IT FEELS LIKE DESTINY...
S HARSH, BUT AMBLING A MAN'S WORLD FTER ALL
DORA
SEEING HIMAWARI'S PON, A CLOSED TENPAI SEEMS REALLY DIFFICULT...
RII-CH!!!

OR PERHAPS THE SAME AS WHAT I DID BACK THEN, A DISCARD...
BUT WILL IT BE A CLOSED RIICHI OR SILENT TENPAI
IS A TEST FOR THIS CHILD
IT MIGHT NOT SEEM LIKE IT, BUT THIS MOMENT
IN A GAMBLE YOU SHOW YOUR OUTLOOK ON MAHJONG, YOUR OUTLOOK ON LIFE!
!?




THE
!!?


ポーツ



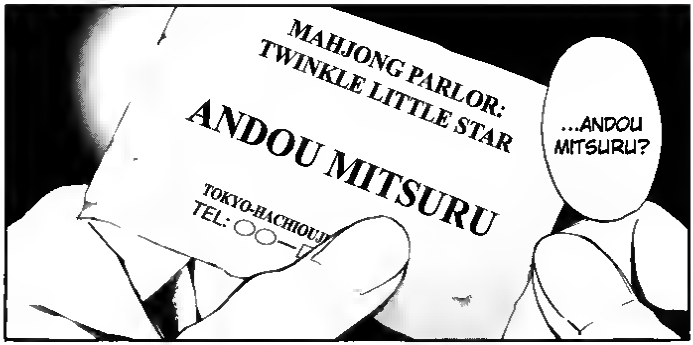
IT FINALLY CAME, BUT...!!
RII-CHI !!

6,000 ALL!!
TSUMO

IF IT WAS ME I'D HAVE WENT FOR A CLOSED RIICHI EVEN THOUGH ONLY 1 WAS LEFT
SO YOU KNEW YOU WOULDN'T NEED THE AND DISCARDED IT BEFORE YOU DREW THE
BUT YOU REALIZED THERE ARE 3 LEFT IN THE WALL
AMAZIN', I THOUGHT IT COULD ONLY BE A CLOSED WAIT
MAMA...
HIMAWARI ...
HUHU... THAT'S RIGHT
SEEMS LIKE YOU LOST
BUT... WELL...
HAH... I CAN'T CALL HER SUCKER ANYMORE

HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN
MY START
AND HERE'S A FAREWELL GIFT FROM ME
BUT HERE'S YOUR PAYCHECK FOR WORKING HERE
EH.. IS IT ALRIGHT?
For Ex-Sucker
OF COURSE I DEDUCTED PART OF YOUR DEBT FROM IT
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED YOU CAN VISIT THIS PLACE
AND... MAMA SAID THIS

T/N: ANDOU MITSURU IS A MAHJONG PROFESSIONAL WHO FIRST DISCOVERED AKI AND KICKSTARTED HER CAREER



JUST WHAT WAS HIMAWARI'S FAREWELL GIFT?
...SPEAKING OF WHICH
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I WENT OUT
AHA...
DELICIOUS♪
MACHIDA MILK PUDDING
For: Guernsey Cow
From: Himawari

aki 2

［アキ］

·Art
大崎充

·Background Assistant
久保田亮平

·Cooperation
二階堂亜樹

·Special Thanks
二階堂瑠美

·Story
花崎圭司

·Cover&Color Design
名和田耕平デザイン事務所

·Mahjong Making
黒木真生
ケネス徳田

·Photograph
寺内康彦

·Editor
重兼嘉夫

About Kojima Takeo

-What is your impression about Kojima Takeo-sensei's appearance in this piece?

Aki: In baseball, marathon, and other games, there are always top competitors who earnestly give it their all. Seeing them, people start cheering for them and are moved by them. I think he's the embodiment of that.

Rumi: It was exactly the same as Kojima-sensei would behave in real life. His "I'll enchant you Mahjong" isn't just interesting, it's more than that.

Aki: Whether you're watching him address his fans or watching him play, he'll influence you without you even realizing it.

Rumi: Even now he says "I have to practice mahjong and I have to practice using the computer", he's still fighting.

What an amazing man. We hope we can hear him say, "The Nikaido Mahjong is interesting" or "They moved me" some day.

The story of when they debuted

-Please tell us about your debut.

Aki: My debut wasn't long ago, but I already feel like a veteran.

Rumi: I'm at the age where I can't call myself young anymore. Even now when I watch the old videos of our debut, I get very embarrassed. I was so inexperienced back then~.

Aki: It's not just the mahjong. Being a pro also carries many different meanings. For example, I had no interest in clothes at all. But once I became a pro I started thinking about how I should dress.

Rumi: Fashion, boys, all the things that teenagers were interested in, I had no interest at all. I was just thinking about how to get better at mahjong.

Aki: I really thought about nothing else other than mahjong, except for when I was sleeping. Ah, even when I was sleeping, I would think about mahjong in my dreams...

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Nikaido Sisters Interview

Rumi and Aki's footprints

RUMI AKI

-Maybe that's exactly why you became so strong when you were young.

Rumi: That's fine, but we never even put on makeup. We would appear on the Friday news all jolly with no makeup at all.

-When Aki-san was 18 years old, she had her TV debut on Mondo 21's "Movie King Finals".

Aki: Even now I have no makeup. Back then I was really inexperienced in mahjong too, but I wasn't aware of it.

Rumi: The producer said "This won't work". So in the next series after my debut, "Future Soldiers 21 Cup", I put on makeup.

Aki: But letting you choose what to wear was a bad decision in hindsight... (Laughing).

Rumi: Nowadays, I get embarrassed just thinking about it. Not thinking about my outfit was also disrespectful to my opponents.

Aki: That's right- Our dear fans and the general public were also watching.

The experience of the two known as "The Cute Sister Players"...

If it came to that, I'd have to quit and move to the next parlor.

-And after all that struggle you ended up in Andou-Pro's "Twinkling Planet".

Aki: That's right. After I took the test for the pro league, I would go to a Manga Cafe in Hachiouji, and that's where I encountered our father.

-Was it unexpected?

Aki: It was really unexpected. We embraced each other in the manga cafe. We were both glad that the other one was well.

Rumi: A child and parent meeting at a manga cafe after so many years (Laughing).

Aki: Actually, while I was working at "Twinkling Planet", Father was working at a nearby parlor in Hachiouji. We were bound to run into each other.

Rumi: When I got back in touch with them I was like "Seriously-!?".

Aki: When I told him I became a pro player, he just said "I see", but I could tell he was a little happy.

Rumi: I think he's the type who would be happy rather than worried once he heard his daughter went down the path of mahjong, which he loved himself so much.

Accidental meeting with your father

-After that, Aki-chan jumped from parlor to parlor for a while.

Aki: After the first parlor I visited, I was working for a short while in various different parlors. As long as I could play mahjong, I didn't mind working. However, sometimes someone would get suspicious of my age and ask me for identification out of nowhere.

About your father

-Who had the biggest influence on your mahjong?

Aki: That would have to be our father. Back then, he was running a mahjong parlor.

-So, you had gifted education for mahjong?

Rumi: No. Sure, we were around the tiles, but all we did with the tiles was play with them like with lego. We were still children so it would have been impossible to play real mahjong.

Aki: Once we were able to play proper mahjong, we were already completely separated from our father.

Rumi: While we were in elementary school, our mother disappeared...

Aki: Our father ended up renting out the parlor place. In the end, we were put into the custody of our relatives at our father's parents' house.

Rumi: The circumstances didn't allow for him to teach us any mahjong.

Aki: After that even Father disappeared. He never told us the full details, but it seems that he made a big mistake regarding business and that it was a complete disaster.

Rumi: In the end, even though we were just a middle school and a high school student, we had no parents and we had no home.

Aki: At that point I actually knew some mahjong. At first, I learned it from a video game. "Wooow, this game is so much fun" I thought. And then all of a sudden I went to parlors to play.

-You were just a middle school student, right?

Aki: Third year student. I lied in the parlors that I was 18.

Rumi: Aki-chan has a baby face, so I think she probably looked more like an elementary school student (Laughing).

Aki: Since our original home was a parlor, I wasn't scared of entering other parlors at all. I just wanted to play mahjong.

Rumi: Come on, that's just crazy (Laughing).

Accidental meeting with your father 2

-So that's the story of when Aki-san was a middle schooler, Rumi-san was a high achooler and your family wae separated.

Aki: That's right

-So, after you paaaed your pro test, you ran into your father.

Aki: That's the basic story, after that I just wanted to play mahjong. Once I passed my test, Rumi-chan also started studying mahjong.

Rumi: Aki-chan and **I**, since the only friends we had were each other, went to the parlor our father was working at.

Aki: I was still pretty weak, but father was overwhelmingly strong.

-Could you tell us more about this unheard story?

Aki: I don't remember all the details.

Rumi: After the game he said "Aki became really strong".

-To you, Rumi-san?

Rumi: He didn't talk to me at all (Laughing). Because I was just a beginner.

Meeting your mother

-Did you get along with your father after running into him?
Aki: The reunion was really unexpected, but it turned out that way.
-But you haven't met your mother ever again.
Rumi: When we became pros, we thought "Maybe after reading about us in a magazine, she would reach out to us". We were hoping for it.
Aki: At the beginning I thought that something like that could happen.
Rumi: But there was nothing at all.
Aki: I thought that we would have to become more famous.
Rumi: After a few years I thought it would never happen.
Aki: Maybe she didn't want to contact us even after she recognized us, we gave up hope.
Rumi: And then there was that day.
Aki: I was really surprised.
-You met her? Where?
Aki: In Nagoya.
Rumi: A woman approached as at an event where online mahjong players were facing pro mahjong players.
"Rumi-chan, Aki-chan, do you recognize me?" she said.
Aki: To be completely honest, rather than being moved, I was just surprised, my mind went blank.
Rumi: It was around 20 years since we last saw her. It was a bit different than with Father, but I was happy nonetheless.
Aki: That's true. She was just like Rumi-chan! "You look just like Rumi-chan" I said, and she replied "Oh no, I'm not that beautiful". She's just like her daughter (Laughing).
Rumi: Mother had to be really flustered (Laughing).

Aki: Looking back on all of this, it's like we really were linked to mahjong by fate.
Rumi: If it weren't for mahjong, we might have never seen Mother and Father in our lives again.
Aki: We were born in a place connected to mahjong, and we were able to reunite with our family thanks to mahjong.
Even nowadays, mahjong is what feeds us. So...
Rumi: That's why I'm really grateful to mahjong.
From here on I want to keep giving back to mahjong.

aki 2【電子版】

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This is the end of Aki.
As of the day of this chapter's release, Nikaido Aki is 35 years old, married and has a small daughter. She is still professionally playing mahjong.
Working on the inspiring story of the Nikaido sisters and all the mahjong articles was fun and refreshing.
Thanks to everyone for reading, hope you enjoyed.

-Rinshan